THE WEEKLY COMMERCIAL

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THE DAILY COMMERCIAL

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THE PEARL OF CAMPAN.

One fine morning in autumn, I was rambling through the secluded Valley of Campan, in the Pyrenees, accompanied by the excellent curate of the district, with whom, in the course of my peregrinations, I had become acquainted, and beneath whose hospitable roof I had promised to spend the night. The scenery was wild and lovely beyond description; and having expressed my admiration of it, I added a wish to know something of the inhabitants.

"They have hearts of gold and wills of iron," said my friend. "Many a touching and noble instance of generosity and self-denial have I met with amongst them. And, for example, look at this man approaching us."

He was a fine-looking fellow, of five or six and twenty, with a military air, and dressed in uniform. The lower part of his face was very handsome, and his dark sunburnt complexion suited well with the long mustaches. I could not see his eyes, for the visor of his cap was drawn down so as completely to shade them from the light. Having exchanged a cordial salutation with the curate, he passed on, followed by a huge white dog, with thick fur and enormous paws. The animal belonged to a breed peculiar to the Pyrenees, and remarkable for their sagacity and faithfulness.

"Now," said my companion, as soon as the soldier had passed out of hearing, "while we walk along, I will tell you a true story, of which you have just seen two of the principal characters.

"Juan Trigoyen was born in the heart of these mountains, where the peasant has his choice of following one of two occupations,—that of a shepherd, or a hunter. Juan chose the latter, as his father had done before him; and a hazardous pursuit it is. Not merely has the mountain hunter to scale all but inaccessible precipices, and to brave the fury of famished bears and wolves, but he is constantly exposed to be swept away by a torrent, or buried beneath an avalanche. To this latter peril Juan's father had fallen a victim. Crushed beneath a mass of snow, he perished, leaving his son no other heritage than his dog, his gun, and his precarious calling, and a young widow, unequal to the task of supporting herself. Juan, at this time a fine lad of eighteen, loved his grandmother tenderly; she had always supplied to him the place of his mother, who had died in giving him birth, and he now, with a courage and resolution beyond his years, undertook the sole charge of their maintenance. He had been early trained to the chase, and success now crowned his efforts. The number of izards, eagles and bears struck down by his hand, testified the sureness of his foot and the certainty of his aim.

"Thanks to the value of these spoils, Gertrude knew no privations; but she trembled for the safety of her beloved child, and often said to him, with tears in her eyes, 'Stay at home to-day, Juan; you will perish some time or other, like your poor father; and what would I do alone, without any one to love in the world?'

"Then the lad would answer: 'Calm yourself, mother; Providence will watch over me for your sake.'

"Thus did Juan work hard during the week for his own and his parent's support, and on Sunday I loved to see them entering my little church, Gertrude leaning on the arm of her handsome boy, and both joining in the prayers with the utmost devotion.

"Two years passed on, and Juan was returning one day from Bagneres, whither he had gone to dispose of some game. It was winter, and the north wind blew piercingly cold; but the young hunter stepped on briskly, whistling a lively tune. Suddenly a cry of distress struck his ear, but he knew not whence it came.

"'On Cæsar!' he cried, trusting to his dog's sagacity; 'seek it out, boy!'

"The docile creature set off in the direction of a thick pine-grove, and his master followed, the cries becoming more distinct. Juan recognized the voice of a female in distress. He redoubled his speed, still preceded by the dog. At length he reached an open space, and there was Cæsar struggling with, with, what? Juan could not say, a woman, with a huge she-wolf in the act of fastening on her neck. With a shout Juan rushed forward, and at the sound the fierce creature raised her head; and fixed on him a look of execrable malignity and fiery hunger. Without a moment's hesitation, the intrepid hunter seized her by the throat with one hand, and thrusting the other into her mouth, grasped her tongue, and dragged it forth with a wrench. After a fearful struggle, he succeeded in dashing the strangled beast on the ground. This done, Juan looked round to see if his faithful ally had need of assistance. No, his antagonist also lay dead, and the hunter had time to attend to the female, who, in her motionless on the ground, having fainted from excess of terror. Her deliverer raised her gently in his arms, put back the rich brown hair that had fallen over her face, and perceived that she was a young and very lovely girl. Taking a handful of the snow which lay on the ground, he rubbed it on her temples, and then succeeded in putting some small bits of ice into her mouth. The fugitive soon opened her eyelids unclosed, and she drew a deep sigh.

"'Where am I?' she murmered.

"'Safe with a friend.'

"'It was you, then, who saved me?'

"'Rather it was Providence, who was pleased to employ my humble arm.'

"She thanked him with a look far more eloquent than words; and then, with confiding simplicity, as she still felt weak, asked him to let her lean on his arm as far as her house. 'I was coming from the chase,' she said, 'to sell some milk, when those dreadful wolves attacked me, upset my pitcher, and, but for your timely aid and that of your good dog, would surely have devoured me.'

"The conversation thus commenced did not flag. Juan soon learned that Marguerite lived in the hamlet of Campan; that she was an orphan, and had no property save a small cottage, one cow, and some hens. She managed to support herself with the profits of these animals and of her spinning. Her perfect candor and her innocent beauty charmed the heart of Juan. He thought that, were he possessed of all the treasures in the world, he would like to lay them at Marguerite's feet. On entering the village, the news of their adventure spread quickly, and it was easy to see, from the congratulations of the people, how much the young girl was beloved by her neighbors. Both young and old rushed forth to meet her; Juan was overwhelmed with thanks and praises; nor was poor Cæsar by any means forgotten.

"'Adieu, Marguerite,' said Juan, when he had accompanied her to her cottage-door. 'May I sometimes come to see you?'

"'To whom should my door be open, if not to my deliverer?' said the young girl, innocently, at the same time extending her hand to Juan. He pressed it to his lips, and hastened away.

"When he reached home, he found Gertrude very uneasy at his prolonged absence. 'Oh, my child!' she cried, 'where have you been, and what are those stains of blood upon your dress?'

"Juan smiled. 'Don't be uneasy, mother; this blood is not mine, but that of an enemy I killed.' And he told her all that had occurred, not concealing the feelings of admiration and love which he felt for her whom he had rescued.

"'Thank God, my child,' said the old woman, 'that your choice has fallen on so worthy an object. I have often heard the beauty and virtuous industry of Marguerite commended. She is called by her neighbors the Pearl of Campan.'

"It never occurred to the affectionate grandmother that the fair girl in question could possibly be insensible to the attractions of her boy; and, indeed, the event proved that she was not far wrong. Marguerite was of too innocent and frank a nature to play the coquette with him who had risked his life for hers, and the preliminaries for their marriage were speedily arranged.

"On the morning preceding that on which their bans were to be published, the sound of a drum was heard in the peaceful Valley of Campan; and the prefect of the district proclaimed the drawing of conscripts for the army. Poor Juan! his was amongst the first of the selected names, and at the moment the shock nearly stunned him. However, he had been taught not to shrink from his duty; and having calmly made the needful preparations, he drew his betrothed aside, and said, 'Listen to me, Marguerite. You promised to be mine; I am going away for some years, perhaps forever; it is right that you should be free, —I give you back your vow.'

"'And I,' said the girl, 'will not take it back. Whether our next meeting, Juan, will be here or in that better world to which, I trust, we are both looking, I will never marry any one but you.'

"The young man pressed her hand in silence. 'But my mother!' he said at length, while two unwonted tears rolled down his cheek; 'she is old, infirm, unable to work for her support——'

"'Your mother, Juan,' interrupted Marguerite, 'is she not henceforth mine? So long as God gives me strength to work, our mother shall not want a home.'

"'And so, with mutual blessings and fond tears they parted.

"Cæsar followed his master to the wars, and Gertrude, on the day of Juan's departure, took up her abode in Marguerite's cottage. The old woman managed the domestic affairs, while the young one carried her milk, butter, eggs and poultry to market. In the evenings, as they both sat at their spinning-wheels, their conversation naturally turned on Juan: 'Where is he now? what is he doing while we are speaking of him?' Sometimes their anxiety was assuaged by the arrival of a letter, filled with hope and tenderness; but at length one came which increased their sorrow. It bore the stamp of Algeria. Juan announced that his regiment had just landed in Africa, and was immediately to march on the town of Zaatcha, where a number of insurgent Arabs had intrenched themselves. Some sharp fighting was expected, as the rebels were known to be desperate. Under this afflicting intelligence, the two women found their only consolation in religion, in committing their dear one to the care of God. Every day, on going up to the town, Marguerite was accustomed to pause for a few minutes at the spot where she had first met her betrothed, and where, during the happy days of their courtship, he had raised a rustic seat; she used to kneel beside that simple memento, and pray fervently, nor did she ever arise and go on her way without feeling strengthened and encouraged.

"Every evening, on her return, her first question to Gertrude was, 'Has Juan written?' And the old woman would sadly shake her head with a despairing gesture, which seemed to imply, 'Juan will never write to us again!'

"One day as Marguerite was returning from Bagneres, she was overtaken by a violent thunder-storm. There was no place of refuge nearer than her own cottage, and with her garments dripping, and her eyes nearly blinded by the driving rain, she hastened homeward. What did she see? A blazing, lightning-stricken pile surrounded by a terrified crowd of villagers.

"'Mother!' cried Marguerite, darting onwards, 'where are you?'

"A cry of agony from within the burning cottage was the reply.

"'Mother, courage! I'll save, or die with you!' And before the astonished spectators could detain her, she rushed through the flames. A minute, which seemed an age of agonizing suspense, elapsed, and Marguerite reappeared, dragging forth her precious burden, and forming with her own body a shield against the flames. Scarcely had she allowed the old woman to fall into some of the arms ready to receive her, when the heroic girl, sunk down, herself, overcome.

"When she opened her eyes," continued the curate, "she was in an apartment in my house, whither I had caused her to be carried. Gertrude and I had watched for three days and three nights by her bed, awaiting the moment of returning consciousness. Her first sensation was that of torturing pain in her face. She raised her hand to it, and felt that it was so enveloped in bandages as to leave only the mouth and eyes free. A cry escaped her lips. 'Oh, I remember the storm,—the flames; I am disfigured for life—is it not so?'

"Gertrude and I were silent. It was but too true; the devouring element, leaving her hair untouched by her wet clothes, untouched, had seized on her face. The beauty of feature and delicacy of complexion, which had procured for her her graceful soubriquet, was totally destroyed.

"Until the bandages were removed which the surgeon did not as yet judge it prudent to do, he could not tell the extent of the disfigurement, but that it would be very great was certain. Our silence, and the tears which we could not repress, acquainted the poor child with her misfortune. She raised her eyes to heaven with a touching expression of resignation. 'It is Thy will, my God,' she said, 'but let not Juan see me thus!'

"'Juan!' repeated Gertrude; 'we shall soon embrace him.'

"'Is he coming?'

"'In ten days—see yourself.' She handed a letter to Marguerite, which the latter read with eagerness. It was written by the hand of one of his comrades, and informed them that Juan, who had received a severe wound at the siege of Zaatcha, was now convalescent in Bagneres. He had obtained, as a reward for his services, a cross of merit, his discharge, and pension, and would be with them in ten or twelve days at furthest.

"Having finished reading the letter, Marguerite fell into a profound reverie, from which neither Gertrude's fond caresses nor my attempts at consolation could arouse her. 'Oh, sir,' said she, at last, 'it is not indeed it is not for his own sake that I value beauty, but—but how can Juan love me when he sees me in this state?' At that moment the surgeon entered, and having felt his patient's pulse, he began silently to remove the bandages. As soon as Marguerite felt that her wounds were exposed, she asked for a mirror.

"'Not yet my child; not to-day,' said the doctor. She tried to raise her hands to feel her face. 'Hold her arms down,' cried the surgeon to the old woman and myself. We did so, involuntarily turning away our eyes from the sight of those swollen and mutilated features, once so lovely.

"'Marguerite saw and understood our movement. 'Is it not so, sir?' she said to me calmly; 'will it not be impossible for him to love me?'

"'Nine days passed on; the wounds were regularly dressed, and were now nearly cicatrized. The tenth day was that of Juan's expected return; but no one yet ventured to speak of it. Early in the morning, Marguerite rose, and prepared to go out, saying that a walk in the fresh air would do her good. I offered to accompany her.

"'No, thank you, sir; I wish my dear mother alone will come with me.' And with one hand slightly leaning on Gertrude's arm, while the other held a small package, she went out. They walked towards Juan's cottage, but turned off, for the convalescent was yet very weak.

"'Arrived there she knelt down and after a short, silent prayer, she turned to Gertrude, and embracing her, said—'Bless your daughter, dear mother, for the last time; for you will never see her again.'

"'What do you mean, my child?'

"'The truth. I am going away. You will say good by for me to him, mother, and tell him that it is my very love for him that forces me to fly.'

"'But, dear one,' said Gertrude, detaining her, 'you wrong our Juan; he has a noble heart, and he will love you all the better for your noble conduct. Besides, he knew that it was in saving me from a dreadful death you received them.'

"'He has a noble heart,' replied the girl; 'and I know that he would worship me, and try to make me happy; but how could I endure his averted looks—his sorrow! No, no; I shall suffer much less in suffering alone.'

"Just then a well-known bark was heard, and a large white dog rushed out of the woody path. 'Cæsar!' called Gertrude. 'Where is your master?'

"Here he is, replied an agitated voice; and holding one end of a sling, Juan appeared, with the other fastened to Cæsar's collar, a soldier appeared. 'Mother! are you here? Where is Marguerite? Why don't you come and embrace your poor blind wanderer?'

"'Blind!' exclaimed Marguerite; and fixing her eyes on the mutilated face, she saw that his were covered with a bandage. I cannot describe the emotion of all three; suffice it to say, that after an incredible number of embraces, Gertrude and her two children returned to the house, and we passed a delightful evening."

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"Well," I said, "I suppose the blind warrior and his bride-had—still, in his affliction, the possession of her youthful charms—were speedily united?"

"They were," he replied. "It was I who married them; but I have somewhat more to tell you of them. Their cottage, by the willing aid of all the villagers, was soon rebuilt, and they remained in it. Their circumstances were very comfortable, and Juan supported his infirmity—caused, he told me, by the explosion of a mine—with the utmost cheerfulness. His tenderness for his wife seemed to increase every day, and yet she was evidently not happy. She became a prey to constant melancholy, and her health and strength visibly declined. Her old friend, the doctor, visited and prescribed for her, but without avail.

"'My art is at fault,' he said to me. 'Her body suffers, but the seat of the disease is her mind. Do you try to discover what the secret is which weighs on her, may be, or I cannot answer for her life.'

"Alas! how could I apply the consolation of religion to a case of which the sufferer persisted in keeping me profoundly ignorant? Once she seemed on the point of opening her mind, but Juan entered the room, and she was silent; nor could I ever afterwards induce her to speak freely. Meantime her bodily condition became very precarious; and Juan, who was now aware of her danger, scarcely ever stirred from her side. Old Gertrude, as you may suppose, was scarcely less anxious about her.

"One evening, when I was in the cottage, the doctor arrived, and having examined his patient, pronounced that unless some powerful reaction took place she could not long survive. How solemn were the moments that succeeded this announcement! Poor Juan grasped convulsively the hand of his wife, while large tears streamed from beneath his bandage.

"'I beg an to exhort her on the subject of religion; and when I spoke of the mercy of her Maker, she exclaimed: 'Oh, I have great need of mercy, for my conscience is burdened with a heavy load. Listen,' she continued, addressing us all; 'and tell me whether I can hope for forgiveness.'

"Gronped around her bed, we waited in silent astonishment. Marguerite had raised herself into a sitting posture, her wasted arms, her disordered hair, her sunken features, her hollow eyes, gleaming with a light like that of a lamp kindling up before it is extinguished forever, lent an air of indescribable solemnity to the scene. Placing her hand in her husband's, she said—'Juan, you remember, when we separated, the promise which we made of mutual fidelity? My heart was yours, and yours was mine. Well, the terror of losing that heart caused me to commit a grievous sin. I pictured you to myself with shocked, averted looks at the first sight of her who was once named the Pearl; and in the agony, the delirium of the moment, I cried to Heaven: "Oh, God! either give me back my beauty, or take from him his eyesight!" The moment the selfish impious prayer was uttered, I bitterly repented, and would fain have recalled it; but too late! Juan! the wish was granted, and I have never known since one moment's happiness.'

"'What!' cried her husband, 'and is this the secret, Marguerite, which is killing you?'

"'It is.'

"'Then live, dearest, and be happy; your prayer was not answered.'

"And tearing off the bandage which covered his eyes, he fell on his wife's bosom, and clasped her in a long embrace.

"It appeared that the blindness which had fallen on Juan was of only a temporary nature. Under the skilful treatment of our friend the surgeon, whom he privately consulted, the power of vision began slowly, but certainly, to return. Having, however, heard from his grandmother the whole history of Marguerite's horror at the idea of his beholding her disfigured face, he generously determined to conceal from her his cure, at least for a time. Now, however, it was suddenly revealed; and was it too late? The doctor, motioning us all away but Juan, took his patient's hand, and felt her pulse; a hopeful smile played on his benevolent lips.

"'My friend,' said he, turning to me, 'the age of miracles has not ceased—Marguerite is cured.'

Here the good man ceased, and after a pause, asked: "And was Marguerite in reality so very much disfigured?"

"You shall judge for yourself."

We walked on, and approached a neat and pretty cottage, covered in front with a luxuriant vine. An old woman sat near the doorway spinning, and placed on a low chair by her side, a young woman was nursing her child. Both were of remarkably graceful, and her face, although certainly not handsome, was by no means repulsive. It was even easy to distinguish, amid the seams and scars which marked it, the wreck of great beauty. Yet there was a touching expression of serene tenderness shed over her features, as she looked on her child, which in my eyes amply compensated for the want of regular comeliness.

The curate advanced. "Good-morning, Marguerite," he said.

"Good-morning, sir," she answered, looking up with a beaming smile.

"How baby?"

"As well as possible," said the happy mother, holding up and showing her nursling's rosy, dimpled cheeks.

"Well, Marguerite," said the good old man, taking the innocent little creature in his arms, and kissing its tender forehead, "I could fancy this is yourself as I remember you on the day that I baptized you. Come, the Valley of Campan has not lost its Pearl—it has gained in the person of your lovely little daughter."

HOW MERCHANTS CHEAT.

Tricks of Trade—Some "Awful Disclosures"—How Honorable Men Deal in New York.

The New York correspondent of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle has been exploring the metropolis, and thus exposes some of the wicked smallnesses which wholesale traders practice: The business men of this city are very liberal. They have certain "usages of trade," as they are called, which are nothing less than absolute stealing. Boxes of castile soap and other goods are sent to country customers, who little think that they pay for but nine bars in the box, when the number in it is outrageous. Ten in chests is estimated at 20 pounds each, and 25 bars in boxes at 40 pounds. An importer, but a country dealer seldom gets more than 18 pounds. On half chests 12 pounds is allowed, and 10 pounds at the same time the dealer marks the chests a pound or two. The mark he puts up the weight corresponds to the marking down of tares. Casks of sugar, which few country merchants ever weigh, are estimated up 20 pounds, and sometimes 90 pounds. They tell a good story of a New York wholesale grocer on the North side, who was notorious for his boldness in this line. The old man had a son who was learning the business, and when in such a frame was asked by a clerk, who had sold a cask of sugar, if he "should go 20 pounds over?" "Yes," would be the reply, "don't go over ten, for I'm under concern of mind." Wines, liquors, molasses, and most other liquors are gauged up, which is very easily done. An original gauge mark of say 31 gallons, can be easily altered to 34, by using a gauger's "scube" in a neat manner. If this is not so, sir?" she said to me calmly, "will it not be impossible for him to love me?

"Nine days passed on; the wounds were regularly dressed, and were now nearly cicatrized. The tenth day was that of Juan's expected return; but no one yet ventured to speak of it. Early in the morning, Marguerite rose, and prepared to go out, saying that a walk in the fresh air would do her good. I offered to accompany her.

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"Nine days passed on; the wounds were regularly dressed, and were now nearly cicatrized. The tenth day was that of Juan's expected return; but no one yet ventured to speak of it. Early in the morning, Marguerite rose, and prepared to go out, saying that a walk in the fresh air would do her good. I offered to accompany her.

"'No, thank you, sir; I wish my dear mother alone will come with me.' And with one hand slightly leaning on Gertrude's arm, while the other held a small package, she went out. They walked towards Juan's cottage, but turned off, for the convalescent was yet very weak.

"Arrived there she knelt down and after a short, silent prayer, she turned to Gertrude, and embracing her, said—'Bless your daughter, dear mother, for the last time; for you will never see her again.'

"'What do you mean, my child?'

"'The truth. I am going away. You will say good by for me to him, mother, and tell him that it is my very love for him that forces me to fly.'

"'But, dear one,' said Gertrude, detaining her, 'you wrong our Juan; he has a noble heart, and he will love you all the better for your noble conduct. Besides, he knew that it was in saving me from a dreadful death you received them.'

"'He has a noble heart,' replied the girl; 'and I know that he would worship me, and try to make me happy; but how could I endure his averted looks—his sorrow! No, no; I shall suffer much less in suffering alone.'

"Just then a well-known bark was heard, and a large white dog rushed out of the woody path. 'Cæsar!' called Gertrude. 'Where is your master?'

"'Here he is, replied an agitated voice; and holding one end of a sling, Juan appeared, with the other fastened to Cæsar's collar, a soldier appeared. 'Mother! are you here? Where is Marguerite? Why don't you come and embrace your poor blind wanderer?

"'Blind!' exclaimed Marguerite; and fixing her eyes on the mutilated face, she saw that his were covered with a bandage. I cannot describe the emotion of all three; suffice it to say, that after an incredible number of embraces, Gertrude and her two children returned to the house, and we passed a delightful evening."

Here the curate stopped, and I thought his tale was ended.

"Well," I said, "I suppose the blind warrior and his bride had—still, in his affliction, the possession of her youthful charms—were speedily united?"

"They were," he replied. "It was I who married them; but I have somewhat more to tell you of them. Their cottage, by the willing aid of all the villagers, was soon rebuilt, and they remained in it. Their circumstances were very comfortable, and Juan supported his infirmity—caused, he told me, by the explosion of a mine—with the utmost cheerfulness. His tenderness for his wife seemed to increase every day, and yet she was evidently not happy. She became a prey to constant melancholy, and her health and strength visibly declined. Her old friend, the doctor, visited and prescribed for her, but without avail.

"'My art is at fault,' he said to me. 'Her body suffers, but the seat of the disease is her mind. Do you try to discover what the secret is which weighs on her, may be, or I cannot answer for her life.'

"Alas! how could I apply the consolation of religion to a case of which the sufferer persisted in keeping me profoundly ignorant? Once she seemed on the point of opening her mind, but Juan entered the room, and she was silent; nor could I ever afterwards induce her to speak freely. Meantime her bodily condition became very precarious; and Juan, who was now aware of her danger, scarcely ever stirred from her side. Old Gertrude, as you may suppose, was scarcely less anxious about her.

"One evening, when I was in the cottage, the doctor arrived, and having examined his patient, pronounced that unless some powerful reaction took place she could not long survive. How solemn were the moments that succeeded this announcement! Poor Juan grasped convulsively the hand of his wife, while large tears streamed from beneath his bandage.

"'I began to exhort her on the subject of religion; and when I spoke of the mercy of her Maker, she exclaimed: 'Oh, I have great need of mercy, for my conscience is burdened with a heavy load. Listen,' she continued, addressing us all; 'and tell me whether I can hope for forgiveness.'

"Gronped around her bed, we waited in silent astonishment. Marguerite had raised herself into a sitting posture, her wasted arms, her disordered hair, her sunken features, her hollow eyes, gleaming with a light like that of a lamp kindling up before it is extinguished forever, lent an air of indescribable solemnity to the scene. Placing her hand in her husband's, she said—'Juan, you remember, when we separated, the promise which we made of mutual fidelity? My heart was yours, and yours was mine. Well, the terror of losing that heart caused me to commit a grievous sin. I pictured you to myself with shocked, averted looks at the first sight of her who was once named the Pearl; and in the agony, the delirium of the moment, I cried to Heaven: "Oh, God! either give me back my beauty, or take from him his eyesight!" The moment the selfish impious prayer was uttered, I bitterly repented, and would fain have recalled it; but too late! Juan! the wish was granted, and I have never known since one moment's happiness.'

"'What!' cried her husband, 'and is this the secret, Marguerite, which is killing you?'

"'It is.'

"'Then live, dearest, and be happy; your prayer was not answered.'

"And tearing off the bandage which covered his eyes, he fell on his wife's bosom, and clasped her in a long embrace.

"It appeared that the blindness which had fallen on Juan was of only a temporary nature. Under the skilful treatment of our friend the surgeon, whom he privately consulted, the power of vision began slowly, but certainly, to return. Having, however, heard from his grandmother the whole history of Marguerite's horror at the idea of his beholding her disfigured face, he generously determined to conceal from her his cure, at least for a time. Now, however, it was suddenly revealed; and was it too late? The doctor, motioning us all away but Juan, took his patient's hand, and felt her pulse; a hopeful smile played on his benevolent lips.

"'My friend,' said he, turning to me, 'the age of miracles has not ceased—Marguerite is cured.'

Here the good man ceased, and after a pause, asked: "And was Marguerite in reality so very much disfigured?"

"You shall judge for yourself."

We walked on, and approached a neat and pretty cottage, covered in front with a luxuriant vine. An old woman sat near the doorway spinning, and placed on a low chair by her side, a young woman was nursing her child. Both were of remarkably graceful, and her face, although certainly not handsome, was by no means repulsive. It was even easy to distinguish, amid the seams and scars which marked it, the wreck of great beauty. Yet there was a touching expression of serene tenderness shed over her features, as she looked on her child, which in my eyes amply compensated for the want of regular comeliness.

The curate advanced. "Good-morning, Marguerite," he said.

"Good-morning, sir," she answered, looking up with a beaming smile.

"How baby?"

"As well as possible," said the happy mother, holding up and showing her nursling's rosy, dimpled cheeks.

"Well, Marguerite," said the good old man, taking the innocent little creature in his arms, and kissing its tender forehead, "I could fancy this is yourself as I remember you on the day that I baptized you. Come, the Valley of Campan has not lost its Pearl—it has gained in the person of your lovely little daughter."

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"Well,"

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1870.

PITTSBURGH

COMMERCIAL.

DAILY AND WEEKLY.

1870.

As a thorough newspaper, sparing neither labor nor expense to furnish the fullest and most reliable intelligence; as the fearless, consistent, and persistent opponent of corruption in office and advocate of Honesty, Economy, Retrenchment and Reform in public affairs; as the sworn foe of "Rings" and every description of dishonest combination,—just as ready for it to oppose their practices in the Republican as Democratic party, and even more so, because it holds that a party that will cast out offenders from its ranks is entitled to the confidence of the people—as an Independent Republican journal, the advocate of the rights and interests of the people,—THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL needs no new introduction to the reading public.

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And keeps up in the march of improvement and the development of ideas. Thoroughly alive to everything that is valuable or interesting, it identifies itself at once and heartily with whatever is calculated to benefit mankind and elevate the standard of intelligence and morality. As a Republican journal of the straightest sect, it discusses political questions with an earnest wish to get at the truth and always endeavors to cause men to vote for office.

IT IS A PEOPLE'S PAPER.

And relies on their support and good opinion rather than the favors of politicians or letters. Nor has it done so in vain. Its independent course—more especially in its unsparing denunciation and exposing the practices of thieves in office—has made it the favorite of the masses and the terror of the rascally and the unscrupulous party leaders. Of the reputation it has earned in this respect it is unnecessary to say, and it wishes no different standing in the field of journalism in this regard than a discriminating public promptly accord to it, to prove faithful to their confidence and good opinion will be its constant endeavor.

IT IS A LIVE PAPER.

And ranks with the leading journals which are thoroughly awake to all that is going on in the world. Importance is always fresh and full. Its editorials are written with a purpose in view. Its lucid Reports and Commercial News gatherings are meant to supply the most exacting demands of the business public.

IT IS A GOOD-LOOKING AND SHOWING PAPER.

Having from the start gone ahead, outstripping contemporaries that were started at the same time, and it has attained to a prosperity and come to exert an influence second to no paper in the State. Its circulation is the largest of the first paper in Pennsylvania is the verdict of newspaper readers in general.

IT IS A PAPER OF INFLUENCE.

It being read more generally than any other Pittsburgh paper by the business, professional, and intelligent classes, it is the favorite medium where the latest and fullest news is sought, and consequently the best paper for Business Houses, Counting Rooms and the Family Circle, where it is welcomed as a business and intellectual necessity, where its influence is constant and increasing.

ITS PAST COURSE IS ITS BEST RECOMMENDATION.

And it is felt that there is no necessity for indulging in new professions or making fresh promises. It has been and will be found to keep its standard in politics and morals, to increase its usefulness as a family visitor, and will add to its strength or increase its usefulness.

THE NEXT YEAR.

THE COMMERCIAL enters on another year strong and hopeful, and with a deliberate purpose consistently with what has been said above, that it cannot but hesitate to ask the co-operation of all who approve of that purpose. No exertion is left undone to merit and secure the support in increasing its circulation and enlarging the sphere of its usefulness. As the next year will be in session, and stirring events at both the National Capital and at Harrisburg are transpiring. The measures of the splendid administration of General Grant will soon be before Congress, embracing questions of the deepest interest to every reader of the Nation, and legislation for party will present matters of interest. Abroad, the signs are animating; and at home in the field of politics, religion, social questions and education and religious questions are appearing, of which not even a hint can be given now, but a leading one, and concerning which all that is essential to be known will be the aim of the COMMERCIAL to give.

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Address, THE COMMERCIAL,
Pittsburgh, Penna.

A NEGRO IN THE SENATE.

At 4.40 o'clock on the 25th inst. Mr. REVELS, the colored Senator from Mississippi, was sworn in and admitted to a seat in the Senate of the United States. In accordance with the old philosophy not yet wholly exploded, which recognizes a sympathy in nature with man and his fortunes, we might perhaps have expected this event to be attended with tremendous indications of physical perturbation and convulsion. Some, no doubt, did expect that earth would feel the wound and that nature from her seat, sighing through all her works, would give signs of woe. But we have neither seen nor heard of anything of the kind. Ever since, we have had the usual alternation of night and day, and no disturbance has been apparent in the natural course of the season. Having waited several days before directly commenting on the subject, we are able confidently to report the quiet and orderly procession of physical phenomena in all parts of the country.

The truth is, that the admission of a colored man to membership in the Senate is the final step, and, in march, the culmination of an advance, gradual, however rapid. The ultimate result of the development of opinion in this direction has, for some time, been so obvious to all intelligent people, that no one has been either shocked or surprised by the recent action of the Senate. And it is only when by an effort we recall the feelings with which the black man was regarded a few years ago, that we are enabled to appreciate the greatness of the revolution in sentiment that has taken place. In the attempt to measure the change by such a retrospect we are, however, liable to fall into error. The fact we suppose to be that the transformation has been less thorough than it seems. Before the war the sentiment, in disregard of which a colored man has at length become a United States Senator, was certainly factitious or conventional in a much greater degree than at first appears. It was a form in which loyalty to the Constitution and the Union was invested; it was partly, also, sympathy with our countrymen of the South. But, in the soundest minds and hearts of the country, it was felt to be a sentiment inconsistent with the plain teachings of Christianity and antagonistic to the instincts of humanity. Along with new surroundings the manifestation of noble and generous qualities on the part of the oppressed, now powerfully co-operated in revolutionizing the popular feeling towards them. And one of the first effects of the removal of the scales was to enable all who had eyes to see, that, in our blind prejudice and proscription of race, we had been lingering in the rear of all other really enlightened nations. The Athenian was prouder of his autochthonous or indigenous and godlike ancestry than any Anglo-Saxon is of his race, and yet the Athenian was happy to recognize nobility of character and a right to equality in the Scythian. The Romans found much of their strength in the appropriation of foreign excellence, of whatever nationality. French literature owes a debt to African blood. Some of the most meritorious and valuable officers of the old British East India Company's army were of the class called Eurasians, of mixed English and Hindoo or Mohammedan descent. A few years ago two of the most distinguished civil servants of the same Company, one of them the Commissioner noted in the defense of Lucknow, were descendants, on one side, of an African who had been a slave in Albany, New York. The negro blood was obvious in their features.

Assuming, then, that Mr. REVELS is intellectually and morally fit for the place to which he has been admitted, its admission is a fair subject of self gratulation to all patriotic citizens. In regard to individuals prejudice without knowledge is always unwise and unworthy, respect of persons, that is, judging people by their face, complexion, &c., is expressly condemned in the New Testament. Thus to judge and proscribe an entire race is as wicked as it is foolish. There was a time when the phrase "Saxon churl" expressed as much odium and as unmitigated contempt as any term familiar to the mouths of negro-haters—and at a still later period, "dog of a Jew," denoted the estimation in which pious Christians held the descendants of ABRAHAM. We may proscribe a race, but if they are worthy to rise we cannot keep them down. It may be impossible for many to overcome personal antipathies; partialities may be unavoidably cherished, but the equality of all men of all races, creeds, and colors, the opponent of prescriptions, and the folly of all proscription on the ground of race, are principles so deeply rooted in American convictions as the dictates equally of humanity and religion, that to arrest their practical development and application would be as impossible as to arrest the motion of the earth. All such attempts must be futile; the thing is in the air.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT ABROAD.

A few days ago the Senate of Maine, by a vote of three to one, passed a bill for the abolition of capital punishment. This bill, we are told, is likely to be adopted by the lower House also. In connection with this announcement, it is interesting to observe how very deep and widely diffused is the earnestness with which this subject of the death penalty is at present discussed. On the other side of the Atlantic many men of distinguished ability are engaged in investigating the question of its retention or abrogation; and the intensely practical, unsentimental spirit in which most of them appear to pursue their inquiries at length warrants some reasonable anticipation of a final and satisfactory solution of the problem. Every year, in his "Almanac," AUERBACH, the celebrated novelist, lays copious facts and some arguments favorable to abrogation before the many millions who speak the German language. Though AUERBACH is more than a romancer, having written much and well on philosophical subjects, there is, it seems, rather more than sufficient sensibility in his manner of treating the death penalty. In England Mr. J. S. MILL supports the other side. Since early in the first revolution, as our readers know, the subject of the death punishment has, from time to time, been agitated with great interest in France. Perhaps nowhere else have the claims of humanity in the individual criminal as opposed to the safety of society, been considered with more attention. Readers are probably aware the guillotine, the instrument of execution almost used by "the master of the ceremonies," as the executioner is sublimely nominated, was first introduced as a beneficent substitute instead of the ancient machinery for taking off.

The scandalous scenes which accompanied the execution of TRAUPMAN some weeks ago, became the occasion of a good deal of excitement in the Legislative Body. M. STRESKENCKNS protested against the practice of admitting a certain number of journalists to the cell of the condemned during the last preparations, and also against the hideous spectacle of death presented to the worst instincts of the people. In these protests MM. LE HON and PINE concurred, and demanded that in future the guillotine shall be set up in the interior of the prison. Should this demand be complied with, what becomes of the argument for execution derived from its terrifying effect upon those present? This is the pertinent question asked by a French journal now before us. It has been usual to claim much for the deterrent influence of the awful exhibition of the white dress of the criminal in a moment flooded with blood as the knife does its work. More consistent than his colleagues, says the same journal, M. JULES SIMON announced the introduction of a proposition to abolish the penalty of death. M. SIMON is celebrated as one of the most eminent living writers on morals, metaphysics, &c. He has edited the works of DESCARTES.

In conclusion, we may say that from present indications and under the existing *regime*, there is probably not much reason to expect the speedy abrogation of capital punishment in France. But on the 1st inst. the German Reichstag voted its abolition by a majority of thirty-nine. In Italy it has been abolished by the Parliament on the recommendation of the Ministry, with highly advantageous results.

In our own country the sentiment in favor of the measure seems to be monthly gaining strength. There is an evident tendency towards the consideration of the subject as a mere question of expediency and as the necessity of a movement to secure greater certainty in the infliction of punishment upon offenders, is daily becoming more obvious and urgent, the proposed reform assumes a directly practical aspect of a very interesting character.

It was announced the other day that a member of the great Council had been found guilty of disclosing outside the secrets of the Assembly and had accordingly been sent away from Rome. Certainly much annoyance has been caused the Reverend Fathers by the publication of their proceedings. A still more grievous offense has been committed by the invention and publication of scenes that never occurred and of speeches that were never made. Even so respectable a newspaper as the *Pall Mall Gazette* was, a while ago, imposed upon in this manner by a Roman correspondent. In fact the evil became so flagrant that Dr MANNING made it the subject of an English sermon, in which he denounced the liars with a vehemence which is reported to have been highly gratifying to some of them who were present. They may have felt that they had obtained their reward in the knowledge of the mischief they had done. The English and German papers have been the chief offenders in this way.

In the congregations (committees?) secrecy, we believe, is not so much insisted upon. A Paris journal, *L'Illustration*, mentions a debate in which several eminent ecclesiastics took part, namely: Cardinal ROUCHER, Archbishop of Vienna, Mgr. KENRICK, Archbishop of St. Louis, Mgr. CONOLLY, Archbishop of Halifax, and Mgr. VEROT, Bishop of Savannah. This last named gentleman, we are told, in a lively and racy philippic, proposed the rehabilitation of Galileo. He declared that the Popes had denied the antipodes and anathematized those who affirmed their existence, and yet the Vatican is at the antipodes of another country of the globe. How this was received we are not informed.

WE have repeatedly referred to the appointment of Dr. TEMPLE as Bishop of Exeter, and to the controversies to which it has given rise, endeavoring to keep our readers informed about the progress of the affair. Readers who apprehend the real character and importance of this matter will not think that we have given it too much space in our columns. Once more, and perhaps for the last time, we recur to the subject. In the Upper House of Convocation, a few days ago, the new Bishop occupied the attention of the audience, for an hour or more, with a personal explanation, which was listened to with deep interest. About two weeks before this meeting was held, Dr. TEMPLE had authorized a friend to announce publicly his purpose to withdraw his contribution from all future editions of "Essays and Reviews." This declaration, he said, had been made without reference to the present meeting of the Convocation. He denied that his intention to remove his essay from the book, was an admission that he had done wrong in publishing his paper ten years ago. He defended his course in refusing to yield to the clamor which had preceded his final settlement as bishop. With regard to the offensive volume—"Essays and Reviews"—

> "It had done the work it was intended to accomplish, and this was to induce men to speak out on religious subjects in more freer terms than they had previously been in the habit of doing. If the book had done some mischief, it had effected an infinitely greater amount of good; and while he was strongly desirous to make it less like the cycle of his life, he was still maintained that if men were to be prevented from falling into infidelity, a free handling of that book must be allowed."

THE new Constitution of the State of Tennessee, to be submitted to the people this month, contains a religious test for office, which, it will be seen, excludes Universalists as well as Atheists:

> SEC. 2. No person who denies the being of God, or a future state of rewards and punishments, shall hold any office in the civil department of this State.

CAMERONIAN RETROSPECT.

An Almost Forgotten Passage in Recent History Revived by a Very Recent Attempt at White Washing.

Readings from Congressional Globe—Representative Dawes on Cameron and His Contracts—Action of the House of Representatives—Vote of Censure—Probable Reasons Why Mr. Lincoln Summarily Dismissed Cameron from the Cabinet.

We have been reading the *Congressional Globe*, and, on the whole, found it rather dry. We cannot commend it for general perusal. Congressional speeches are often prosy, frequently dull, and sometimes stupid. Honorable members occasionally talk nonsense and twaddle, a few talk drivel. *Multum in parvo*, with rare exceptions, has no application in describing the *Globe*; *parvum in multo* is the fitting phrase.

And yet the *Congressional Globe* is a very valuable publication. As a repository of facts, and of the action of the National Legislature, it is authentic, indeed of the highest authority. The citizen may often consult it with profit, with reference to the business of and the motives which have induced Congressional action. The historian must consult it, as the only authentic source of information of what American Congresses have been; what they have done and how and why they have done it. The *Globe* furnishes also a correct picture of the *personnel* of the National Legislature. It does not, indeed, descend to the *minutiæ* of the age, nativity, stature, dress, complexion, or physical advantages or disadvantages of the individual member. It does not deal in *auto-mortem* biographies except in recording investigations. It does better. Honorable Senators and Representatives are required to speak and act in the presence of the largest audience in Christendom—an interested critical audience, too—that of the whole people. We are brought into a kind of personal contact with even the silent member. We see him; we feel him; we measure him; we judge him. Inexorable *Globe!* your very favors are deceitful.

The *Congressional Globe* is nothing more than a picture, the great merit of which is fidelity to the original. If the picture is found to be uninteresting, the fault is not with the artist.

Let us do the *Globe* justice; we occasionally find some "mighty interesting reading" on its heavy pages, a specimen of which we present below; premising that the italics and head lines are ours. (The surly *Globe* does not deal in italics or head lines:)

Extract from Congressional Globe, Part 2, Second Session 37th Congress, 1861–2, pages 1860–1; House of Representatives, April 25th.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS—CAMERON AS A CONTRACTOR.

"MR. DAWES.—I stated to the House on a former occasion that the Committee had endeavored to render its action as practical as possible, and whenever they had discovered what they thought to be a *fraudulent or profligate* contract, to lay it before the proper department; the department co-operating with the Committee in correcting abuses. Arithmetic shows that the Committee had brought back—when this report is published, too, against the protest of the Chief of Ordnance, now before me in print. It was a contract that had expired, or was about to expire by its own terms, and which the Chief of Ordnance refused to extend and gave this reason for not doing so, addressed to the Secretary of War:

"As regards the extension, I have to state that an arrangement has been already made for obtaining on prospective deliveries one hundred and twenty-one thousand seven hundred and five swords and scabbards, and the uniforms, &c., of which Mr. Horstman was given only because of short time to the deliveries of sabres of their own manufacture. I do not think six months available.

"Respectfully, &c., JAMES W. RIPLEY,
"Brigadier General.

"HON. SIMON CAMERON, Secretary of War.

SIMON EXTENDS IT, NEVERTHELESS.

"Beneath this is the *extension of that contract by order of the Secretary of War for four months*, and still beneath that, on the 15th day of January are these words:

"JANUARY 15, 1862.

"*This order is extended for six months from the termination of the aforesaid above.*

"SIMON CAMERON, Secretary of War."

HOW CAMERON PROCURED HIS CONFIRMATION AS A CONTRACTOR.

"*Now, sir, it was this public statement of his upon his responsibility as an officer of the Government, to which I have referred, that induced a distinguished member of the Senate, a noble and generous hearted, who would do no man any wrong, and who believes that all men tell the truth, to urge, after having moved the unanimous confirmation of this man, whose name was then before the Senate, and to state to which as kind to me, his colleague, in this House as he was capable of using, that he had the authority of this man, Simon Cameron, for stating that I was altogether mistaken when I said that these contracts had been made.*"

WHAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THOUGHT OF CAMERON AND HIS CONTRACTS.

Extract from the same volume, page 1,888, April 30th, 1862.

The Clerk read, as follows:

"In the meantime I take occasion to state that I have no purpose to interfere with any contract now pending before any Department of the Government, or with the action of Congress as contemplating that the heads of Bureaus, or the Commander of the Army, shall make all contracts for supplies for the branches of the service under their charge respectively.

"But I have not found any occasion to interfere with them in the discharge of this portion of their responsible duties.

"I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

"HON. H. HAMLIN, President of the Senate of the United States."

DID CAMERON MAKE CONTRACTS?

"MR. DAWES.—I will read from it in this solemn declaration, signed by the then Secretary of War and addressed to the Senate when his nomination was pending, and when the accusation was made against him that he had made contracts, over the signature of the man as stated by me upon this floor, to the amount of one million ninety-six thousand muskets, *he stated deliberately that he never made a contract, but that they were made by Mr. Ripley.* *Executive Document No 67, containing all the contracts made for arms by the War Department, recapitulates and sums up the whole matter in these words.*

Muskets and rifles.	
Contracts by order of Secretary of War	1,936,000
Contracts by Chief of Ordnance	94,000
Contracts by order of Major Gen. Fremont	1,000
Contracts by order of Maj. P. V. Hagner	1,500
Total	1,931,500

"This document in the face of the solemn declaration of the then Secretary of War that he had never made one of these contracts, reveals contracts made by him and by his order to the amount of eighteen hundred and thirty-six thousand nine hundred muskets, and that upon the very day he made this statement—the 15th day of January—two days after he had resigned, and the day before his successor was sworn in and while his nomination was pending in the Senate, he put his hand to a contract for swords and sabres to an unlimited amount, all that the parties (resident in Philadelphia) could furnish in six months. And this, too, against the protest of the Chief of Ordnance, now before me in print. It was a contract that had expired, or was about to expire by its own terms, and which the Chief of Ordnance refused to extend and gave this reason for not doing so, addressed to the Secretary of War:

"As regards the extension, I have to state that an arrangement has been already made for obtaining on prospective deliveries one hundred and twenty-one thousand seven hundred and five swords and scabbards, and the uniforms, &c., of which Mr. Horstman was given only because of short time to the deliveries of sabres of their own manufacture. I do not think six months available.

"Respectfully, &c., JAMES W. RIPLEY,
"Brigadier General.

"HON. SIMON CAMERON, Secretary of War.

SIMON EXTENDS IT, NEVERTHELESS.

"Beneath this is the *extension of that contract by order of the Secretary of War for four months*, and still beneath that, on the 15th day of January are these words:

"JANUARY 15, 1862.

"*This order is extended for six months from the termination of the aforesaid above.*

"SIMON CAMERON, Secretary of War."

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GOLD AND GREENBACKS.

Their Fluctuations Since June, 1862

At the end of 1861 the banks generally became unable to redeem their notes and suspended specie payments. The reason of this was the weakness of the United States Treasury, whose demand notes were the accepted circulating medium of the country, but could no longer be redeemed in gold. But the currency remained practically as good as gold until 1862, when the delays of McClellan made it clear the war was to be prolonged, and Congress was driven to issue under the legal tender act large amounts of paper money. In June and July the depreciation became considerable, and all forms of specie disappeared from circulation.

The progressive depreciation of the currency is commonly disguised under the form of a "premium on gold," but in fact, the value of gold has not materially changed during the last ten years. It is the paper currency that has been bought and sold, at prices varying according to the varying confidence of the public in its ultimate redemption. To appreciate the course of the national credit, therefore, we should quote the price, not of gold, but of greenbacks. This problem is varied as follows. A greenback dollar was worth in cents of real money:

	Highest.	Lowest.
In June, 1862	99¾	91¼
July, 1862	91⅝	83
August, 1862	89⅝	85¾
September, 1862	85¼	80⅜
October, 1862	82	72⅝
November, 1862	77¼	75
December, 1862	75	71¼
In 1863	81⅝	68
In 1864	66	35
In 1865	78	42½

In 1865 the victories of the Union army put an end to the violent fluctuations in the national credit. Since that time the amount of the currency and the political agitation for a postponement of resumption, aided occasionally by a little speculation in gold, have been the influences which have depressed the value of the currency. But the fluctuations have been within narrower limits. The value of a greenback dollar was, in

	Highest.	Lowest.
1866	80¾	63¾
1867	73¾	69¾
1868	72⅝	69¼
1869	69⅝	61¾
1870 (two months)	90¾	87½

The actual appreciation in the value of green backs, since the beginning of the present year, will be best understood from the following table, in which is shown the highest value in gold of one hundred dollars in currency for each day since January 1st:

January.		February.	
1	83 50	1	87 56
4	83 78	2	87 47
5	83 56	3	87 56
6	83 18	4	87 98
7	82 81	5	87 98
8	82 56	6	87 98
10	82 56	7	87 98
11	82 56	8	87 98
12	82 56	9	87 98
13	82 56	10	87 98
14	82 56	11	88 42
15	82 56	12	88 42
17	82 56	14	88 42
18	82 56	15	88 42
19	82 56	16	88 42
20	82 56	17	88 75
21	82 56	18	88 75
22	82 56	19	88 75
24	82 56	21	88 75
25	82 56	22	88 75
26	82 56	23	88 75
27	82 56	24	88 75
28	82 56	25	88 75
29	82 56	26	88 87
31	82 56		

At 1.15, the opening price in the Gold Room, New York, on the 1st of March, the premium reached since September, 1862—$100 in greenbacks represents a real value of $86 96 in gold.

THE COUNCIL.

Archbishop Spaulding's Third or Compromise Position—Possibility of a Solution of the Infallibility Dogma.

It is the correspondent of the New York *Herald* at Rome, that is authority for the statement that Archbishop Spaulding, of Baltimore, has formed a third party in the General Council, whose policy it will be to steer a middle course between the extreme views entertained of the Pope's personal infallibility, between the ultra Romans, who favor it, on the one hand, and the liberal Catholics, represented by the Episcopacy of France, on the other. The Archbishop's party have also drawn up and signed their *postulatum* precisely as the liberal and ultra bishops have done. In this document is made no allusion to infallibility, and cannot be duplicated even in Paris. There is only one distinct point of assault and design. The price of the satin is $6 per yard dress, of chambery gauze $65 the dress, which is considered reasonable for handling their goods.

Pure mohairs and alapacas are about as serviceable as any fabrics for early spring suits, but there is a growing tendency to wear the fine cashmere cloths, which are so much worn abroad. The shape of the sleeve for early spring suits are made with a silk skirt—walking length—and cashmere over-skirt, and manteau, or sailor jacket, skirt of the same cloth with ruffles or single pleating, headed with velvet, the over-skirt looped and trimmed with the same shade headed by cross-cut bands of the silk, piped on the edge. The manteau is confined in the back with a belt, and has a wide and bunchy, generally consisting of a square bow, three wide pendant loops and two ends.

The new "satin" cloth is a twilled fabric, with fine cotton warp, something like the finer, however, has more "body," and is a little more woolly, but not more so than very fine cashmere.

Cashmere and satin cloth are newer and softer, and altogether more desirable than the serges, and *crepe Empress*, which, however, is still employed for suits by persons who admire stiffer and more dry fabrics. The tendency, however, is to soft and flexible materials, in which the textures do not appear, but rather than stand out in hard and unyielding outlines.

Prices in standard goods have not declined at all since last season. For a few weeks during the period of "taking stock" in January some articles and some styles undesirable to carry over, with the view of getting them down bought low, but the opening of spring business has brought them up to recent figures.

It is of interest to note the importance of dress goods cheap, however, than to buy them of best quality. It is a matter of economy rather than of taste that some fabrics have achieved a name and reputation which serves both to identify them, and as a guaranty of their excellence. The Buffalo brand of Alapaca is one of these, and is now in the market in many styles.

Ladies should learn to learn the trade mark and distinctive appearance of certain kinds of goods, and not be entirely dependable otherwise to be cheated by ignorant, or unscrupulous dealers. The other day a lady at the Wood street Rooms, N. Y., asked for a poplin, which she had purchased for "Irish" poplin. She was offered some fine French and Irish poplin in New York is $1 25 per yard; the lady had paid half a dollar less per yard, than the price of the real article. This is only $2 75, and thought she had got a bargain. She had also been cheated to the tune of 75c per yard on her goods.

Another lady sent a sample of imitation lace, which she had purchased among "job lots" at 5c per yard. Had she known the fact, that there is no longer any such thing as real lace in the market, that it is not manufactured, except as an excellent imitation, she would probably not have been cheated.

GRIEF UPON THE PROMENADE.

The change that has taken place in regard to mourning is quite remarkable. Little attention is paid to it than formerly, and of those who appear to adhere to the old traditions, very many simply prepare a black suit for the street, and consult their own taste in-doors. This is a natural tendency to disregard an old and long cherished custom is due partly, no doubt, to the sensible practical spirit of the age; but it has been greatly aided by the present fashion which has introduced black lollitees on ordinary occasions. There is nothing distinctive now about a mourning dress except the crape. Such a thing as "widow's cap" is never seen, and the long veils have had to succumb to the exigencies of a bonnet, too small to hide them. Young widows wear their hair without ornament; elderly ladies adopt a small Fanchon, or Marie Antoinette cap, composed of white lace, with a slight admixture of the material, as a coiffure.

The crape and bombazine suits of black alpaca, cashmere, serge, silk and other fabrics, have left nothing to mourners but the time honored weeds. Crape has been superseded by other and more durable materials, and is found now in demand only for trimming or out of it.

There are some persons, however, who would prefer to abate nothing of the severity with which women formerly made outward show of their grief. They still make themselves as wretched as possible in the privacy of their dull armure, and inveigh bitterly against the modern spirit of innovation, which considers nothing sacred, and to a certain extent does so right. It is pretty evident that the ancient traditions are fading away, and that departure from any greater love of truth, or honesty, or simplicity, than was possessed by our ancestors, but the deformity of modern railroad existence rides right over old landmarks, and under the name of civility and politeness, strews all the flowers of sentiment and affection, that formerly grew and flourished in the garden of unreserved intercourse, which has been nauseated with an affectation of it; naturally, they fly now to the other extreme, and will none of it.

RIDING GEAR.

In anticipation of weather and roads that will admit of horse exercise, ladies are already planning to inquire concerning the latest in hats and habits.

The style for habits is a small, close fitting basque, buttoned nearly to the throat, and finished either as a postillion with tabs and pepels, as a coat. Long plain gored skirt, laid in a double large bow pleat at the back, and caught up at the sides over a grey cashmere petticoat braided with black. The sleeves are closely shaped to the arm, the linen cuffs fastened with large malachite buttons, the dog-skin gloves, unquilted, have a small cuff, which springs out slightly over the wrist, and fastens with a patent *tirette*.

The most fashionable material just now it "satin cloth," but melton cloth is also very much used in the country and is more suitable for country use. Very little trimming is allowed. The most distinguished habits are silk velvet, or marine blue in broad cloth, and are simply and plainly bound, tailor fashion, with thick black silk galloon, well pressed down. Buttons are small and either black or covered with the material.

The high stock or "high stand-over" is decided by the vogue in hats, the crown is not very high however, and the narrow brim is bent in most becomingly. A gauze veil is always twisted around it, the ends floating at the back. There is a vast deal of style in the hat, the feather is insignificance before the more stately presence of the beaver.

USEFUL HINTS.

White *piqué*, and linen suits promise to be more in vogue than ever this season; the former are trimmed with white Marseilles braid and "Hamburgh" ruffling, the latter with unbleached Irish guipure and black velvet.

A very good method to save trouble, is to mount black velvet upon stiff net in round or square loops and bows, so that they can be transferred readily from one dress to another, or taken off for convenience of washing.

Hamburgh ruffling of open work in handsome and durable German embroidery, which last almost as long as *piqué*, and is not as expensive. Ruffles of three rows, gored *piqué* suits admirably, and is used largely for ladies' and children's dresses.

Gabrielles for little children—boys and girls—in linen and pique are universal. They are a genuine relief to all the furnishing establishments.

Flat single pleating, properly called bilt pleating, has taken the place of ruffles to some extent in the making up of alpacas, mohairs and other woolen fabrics. The pleating is sometimes put on the lower skirt to the depth of half a yard; and the upper skirt cut away and embittered against his countrymen. But this is a Spanish story almost be remembered. There seems to be no doubt of Jordan's promotion.

THE Mormons have commenced their labors in Chicago, where they expect to reap an abundant harvest. It is probable that they know what they hope. Chicago is more nearly like Salt Lake than any other single community in the country.

PIERRE BONAPARTE is said to intend a visit to this country when he gets out of the clutches of the High Court. He will probably settle in New York, where he can shoot as many men as he likes without troublesome interference. *Boston Post.*

And, we will add, become a leader in the Democratic party.

FASHIONS FOR MARCH.

Galeties of the Season—Grand Toilettes and Where They Come From—Seasonable Suggestions—Grief at a Discount—Fashions Upon the Road—Useful Hints.

[From our Fashion Correspondent.]

NEW YORK, February, 1870.

The weather for the past two months has been so much that of a prolonged fall or a precocious spring that we hardly know for what to prepare next. Theoretically, it will be time very soon to throw off our heavy cloaks and furs; practically, we have had since December no occasion for them.

Wise people predict a rough March, a cold April, and a chilled and fearful May to pay for all this sunshine and fair weather in the two hardest months of the year, but I am very much in hopes that it is only the Gulf stream trying to make amends for its stormy vagaries during two recent summers, and that we may escape without a winter of any consequence this season altogether.

GAIETIES OF THE SEASON.

The Prince brought a little flurry of festivity, and there have been many large balls, at which the toilettes were magnificent, but socially there has been much less gaiety than formerly.

The truth is, there are so many more ways of spending money than formerly that people are growing niggardly of hospitality. The hows and wherefores of ours absorb nine-tenths of the women, business and politics the men.

The dress question is one of dress. Women are beautiful, there is no denying that, but they are fast becoming a nuisance to those who have anything to do but study them. A plain, simple dress of silk or satin, which would formerly have been elegant enough for the most fastidious lady, is put quite out of sight by the numerous and bewildering features of elaborate trimming and ornament.

There is no only the dress, but the over skirt and the panier, and the sash and the drapery about the shoulders, and the wonderful *chignon*, and the trained underskirts, tucked and puffed, and the ornaments, and the antique sleeves and boddices, and added to all falls and flounces of most rare and dainty lace.

Where does it all come from? Heaven knows, but each season the styles are invented for our amusement and entertainment, and in addition to them there are such trifles as gloves, shoes, a carriage bouquet, supper and sometimes ten dollar theatre tickets to provide for.

It is easy to think at a distance, that one will be independent and wear the panier dress without accessories, but it is extremely difficult to fight it out on that line. You are with people who are dressed, you feel a certain influence in the air, you wish you had stayed at home and determined finally to get a new dress, and in your over skirt, a new sash, a large *panier*, and an enormous *chignon*, before you venture out again.

It is all the worse because the modern "Jenkins" has a dread of dressing, and of having everybody has on. Imagine such an order for the newspaper man! Why, he would be one of the "grande" toilettes, she absolutely dreads to go anywhere, for fear of seeing herself put down again, for the same "gross lack of taste" over-dress." She could almost kiss Jenkins for making a mistake on one occasion, and calling it "lavender."

SO

and given security to pay for the maintenance of the child, unless they have undergone one year's imprisonment.

Relative to requisitions of the Governor upon other States, which makes the costs to be paid as other costs in suits.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Bills Introduced.

Mr. Webb—For joint resolution for final adjournment, March 31st.

Mr. Bemus—Fixing the mode of selecting Refused Directors in the Monongahela Navigation in the selection of jurors; also, regulating pawnbrokers.

Mr. Acheson—Regulating the practice of dentistry.

Mr. McCreary—Reviving the State military agency at Washington.

Mr. Sennett—Extending the act of this session, allowing railroad companies to lease and become lessees to the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Road.

Mr. Bullens—Urging Congress to repeal the income tax law, because it is inquisitorial and oppressive, and unobtainable because it is direct tax.

Mr. Buffington—Providing that any election officer who shall refuse to receive and count the vote of any citizen on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude shall be guilty of misdemeanor, punishable by fine and imprisonment.

Mr. Parsons—Joint resolution directing the Governor, Attorney General and Auditor General, to call upon the General Government to pay the border raid claims.

The Virtuous Do Not Get Excited.

Mr. Dixmont has sent an article in the PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL of February 25th, in reference to the Dixmont Hospital appropriation and management, referring to Dr. Nesbit as examining the institution and as having recently visited Pittsburgh with Mr. Sennatt[illegible]. Mr. Dix[illegible] announced as authorized to pronounce as false and the writer a liar of the first water, whom he should introduce to resolution, to expel from the floor of the House, if he only knew him. If any specific charge was brought and properly signed against the Superintendent he would vote to change the management, but in the absence of the charge he would not allow an inquisition to be made into irresponsible[illegible]s.

A Familiar Remark in this Locality.

The men now trying to obtain the management are too mean to contribute the one thousand dollars required to become managers.

Messrs. Schlatter and Miller, [illegible] defending their action in favor of the appropriation, etc. Mr. Miller also defended the institution, etc.

The Appropriation Bill Passed Second Reading.

The general appropriation bill was considered on second reading. The Dixmont hospital appropriation passed again, exciding the proviso for a new management. Mr. Reinhold moved an appropriation of six thousand dollars for a monument to Thaddeus Stevens in Washington. Mr. Hall moved to strike out the name, adding James Buchanan. Both amendments withdrawn.

The section allowing mothers to remove soldiers' orphans from schools at half allowance, was agitated for some time, with amendations, etc.

Mr. White proposed to add a section diverting from the Sinking Fund, the taxes on tavernie, eating houses, restaurants, distilleries, brokers, theatres, billiard and bowling saloons, insurance agencies, etc. Ruled out as irrelevant.

Mr. White also moved an additional section, obliging hospitals, charitable institutions, etc., to furnish appropriate annual reports, etc., reports to the Governor, Auditor General and Treasurer, accompanied by statements of receipts and expenditures in detail. Defeated.

The bill then passed second reading.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, March 2, 1870.

SENATE.

Discussion of Treasury Bill.

The Treasury bill from the House was discussed nearly all day, and finally laid over for amendment for the more speedy redemption of the Commonwealth's indebtedness being before the Senate. Mr. Wallace introduced as a substitute for the Treasury bill that fixing the salary of the State Treasurer at five thousand dollars, and his securities at five hundred thousand, making the State treasurer liable for his official embezzlement and use of public moneys, and adding to the rapid payment of the State debt.

No decision was arrived at.

During the discussion Mr. Wallace made a lengthy speech in favor of his substitute on the grounds of public policy.

Mr. Stewart spoke at length on the Treasury bill, and charged that the senators from Lancaster (Billingfelt) and Cleardfield (Wallace) were in the interest of the Treasurer elect, and under a pretence of reform were striving to maintain and increase the amount of the Treasurer's fees, which are now before the Senate. (White's) had been prepared by a committee of the most prominent leading bankers and lawyers, and was approved by Mr. Mackey before the election of Treasurer, when the people were for the people demanded, and it looked badly to see the great reformers going directly against the people, and the will of the people. It looked—[illegible] to him as if the cry of reform was a sham and a delusion.

Mr. Billingfelt explained any interest with the affairs of any State Company.

Mr. Stewart's Bear Creek Oil Pipe Company bill passed finally.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The appropriation bill passed finally without material modifications.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, March 1, 1870.

The Cadetship Investigation

The Military Committee came into the House to-day with the evidence in the case of Whittemore. All the cadetships will soon be anticipated. The same resolution was passed as in the Whittemore case. The Committee asked for instructions concerning its action in regard to members of previous Congresses. The House after a long debate decided not to continue the examination of cases, except where the persons charged were members of this House. This will cut off action in the cases of Smith, Cullen, Dawes, Hooper and Kelley-wards. As sypher is a contestant, his case will have to be passed upon if he is admitted to a seat. The situation of Mungen is somewhat similar. From inquiries made by the District recommended the appointment of a son of a Republican, and Mungen nominated without knowing anything of the politics of the boy's friends. The evidence shows that three hundred dollars was paid, and that it went into the hands of two of these Democrats. Mungen asserts and all his friends believe that he has never known a dollar of this part of the transaction brought out in the Committee. In Covode's case there is no evidence showing that he received any money, but that one thousand dollars was paid by the friends of the applicant. Covode was divided between an ex-Marshal and a Democratic politician. The Committee to-day continued the investigation in Golloday's case, with the intention of completing the examination before reporting a resolution similar to the one passed in regard to Dewease.

The Supreme Judge Nominations.

In executive session to-day, after a long session, the reconsideration of the vote by which for Supreme Judge was withdrawn and he stands confirmed. Vigorous opposition was made to Mr Bradley, chiefly on the ground of locality, and not on account of personal fitness. It seems pretty certain, however, that he will be confirmed to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, March 1.

THE ONEIDA DISASTER.

The Navy Department by which to relieve or allay the terrible suspense of those most interested in the particulars of the Oneida disaster, to-day was received here a telegram from Tullock, from him to Admiral Tullock, of the Oneida, dated January 23d, in which he mentions Lieutenant Commander Hand has been hoisted, and farewells made with their friends of the squadron were to remain on the station. A dispatch of Portsmouth to present complement of the Oneida will not fall much short of one hundred, among the lost are Lieutenant Commander Hand, Surgeon Hall, Master Tullock, of the Oneida, dated January 23d, in which he mentions Lieutenant Commander Hand has been hoisted, and farewells made with their friends of the squadron were to remain on the station. A dispatch of Portsmouth to present complement of the Oneida will not fall much short of one hundred, among the lost are Lieutenant Commander Hand, Surgeon Hall, Master

Another dispatch says: The Navy Department has not yet received any particulars of the Oneida disaster. The Department has not obtained any perfect list of the officers and crew of the vessel. The 155 remain on the station soon to leave China for the United States. Some transfers both among the officers and men of the squadron to which the Oneida belonged probably took place, particularly in the case of men who had yet to serve a long time. Those belonging to while others belonging to other United States vessels of the same squadron whose terms had expired or were about to expire would be transferred to the Oneida for home passage.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

The City of Boston.

LONDON, March 2.—The story of a steamer's funnel having been seen standing up out of the water in Carthigan Bay, off the coast of Ireland, is generally discredited here. Hopes of the safety of the City of Boston are by no means abandoned. Underwriters are so confident that they have reduced their rates, which had been advanced fifty per cent.

Fight on the West Coast of Africa.

PARIS, March 2.—Advices have been received here to the effect that the French have won a victory over the natives in the French colony of Senegal, on the West coast of Africa, on the 9th of February. The French force was only five hundred strong, while that of the enemy was over two thousand.

The Burlingame Obsequies.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 2.—There was a great crowd at the railroad station to-day, including nearly all the Americans in the city. The entire diplomatic corps, except Prince Gortschakoff, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Prince Dolgorouki, Chamberlain of the North German Confederation, who were ill, the Czar's aids, and other high functionaries. The remains of Mr. Burlingame had been embalmed preparatory to their removal to the United States. Yesterday the emperor called upon Mrs. Burlingame.

Lopez Still Holding His Ground.

PARIS, February 2.—Later news from Paraguay shows that Lopez's army has been somewhat depleted by desertion, but he still holds his ground against the Brazilians.

A Warning.

The French Government has warned its representative at Rome to use great caution in his efforts to protect the institutions of Catholic States.

Billiard Challenge.

LONDON, March 2.—J. Roberts, Sr., ex-billiard champion, challenges the world at a billiard match, to occur within two months, for two or five hundred pounds a side.

Complaint Against Prince Murat Withdrawn.

PARIS, March 2.—The magistrate struck by Prince Murat, and who was to prosecute him before the High Court of Justice, has withdrawn his complaint.

Affairs in Spain.

MADRID, March 2.—Rumors of an extensive rising of Carlists in Northern Spain are contradicted, but it is admitted agents of the party are very active just now in all the provinces, and have set on foot movements at various points, which, however, so far are insignificant, and easily checked.

All the private property of ex-Queen Isabella remaining in Spain has been embargoed by her husband, to prevent the waste of their children's inheritance.

The Countess of Girgente, daughter of Isabella, has commenced legal proceedings against her husband for squandering her dowry.

Louis of Bavaria Opposed to Infallibility.

MUNICH, March 2.—King Louis approves the protest of Dr. Dollinger against Papal infallibility, urges him to persevere in the duties of the State from undue influence of the Church, and orders the observance of his birth day with marks of public respect.

THE STATE FUNDS.

The Treasury Investigation.

General Irwin Refuses to be Sworn.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 2, 1870.

The Senate Investigating Committee met to-night, Mr. Billingfelt in the chair.

Gen. Irwin's Statement.

Gen. Irwin, ex-State Treasurer, appeared and made a statement to the following effect: That it was absolutely impossible for him at this late date to give a monthly statement of the affairs of the Treasury during his term. No vault account had ever been separately kept by him, but it was all kept by the cashier as a general treasury account, and everything had been transferred to his successor in office. If the Committee asked or expected a detailed statement they expected an impossibility. He was not in possession of the Treasury or its books, and it was unreasonable to ask him to go to the labor and expense of detailed statements after all his accounts had been satisfactorily adjusted.

He Declines to be Sworn.

In answer to a question of Mr. Billingfelt he stated distinctly that he declined to be sworn, or make any statement beyond that already given. The accounts of his administration were in possession of the State and open to the world, and he could render no further service by answering any questions. He then presented the following letters:

From Governor Hartranft.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, }
HARRISBURG, PA., March 21, 1870. }

W. W. IRWIN, Esq., Auditor General.

Dear Sir: In answer to your communication of this date, I have the honor to state that at the close of your term as Auditor General, in 1869, there appeared to be a balance in the Treasury, according to the books of the Auditor General and State Treasurer, amounting to $1,135,194 92, which amount was charged against R. W. Mackey, Esq., Treasurer elect, who entered upon the duties, by which charge and entry I am informed and believe, he has become liable to your most obedient servant,

JOHN F. HARTRANFT.

Reasons for Declining to be Sworn.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

Gentlemen: I have been subpœnaed to appear before you, to give evidence upon a subject embodied in a resolution adopted by the Senate of 7th January, 1870. At the end of my term as Treasurer I settled my accounts and handed over all moneys and effects in the Treasury to my successor. I made a final settlement on the first Monday of May, 1869, with the Auditor General, by having my warrants for the single dollar of the public money was lost, and all the affairs of my office were closed up to the entire satisfaction of the auditing department of the State. I deny any authority in the Senate to call me to account for malfeasance in office, and to substantiate it with charges and specifications. To such charges I will be ready to meet and refute it. But until then I will not recognize the right of the committee of the Senate of the Commonwealth to call, and to call me as a witness and examine me upon the matters and questions connected with my personal or official integrity. I will not admit the power or authority of the Legislature of the Commonwealth to inquire into my whole official conduct and the management of the affairs of my office. It seems to be distinctly understood as objecting to the exercise of any inquisitorial power as referred to in the above resolution. Such power is calculated to destroy the public integrity. It would be a dangerous precedent, and I am constrained immediately to Point Lazaro to erect a signal and keep a lookout for the Colorado, which was signalled about noon, and which it was impossible for the steamer to receive the sufferers aboard on account of the violence of the storm of the heavy surf. They were compelled to wait to Santa Maria bay over a barren waste, and endure great suffering from hunger and thirst. Several passengers were lost in the sand hills and underbrush, and left behind. Only a small quantity of provisions and water were saved from the wreck. Fortunately the Colorado arrived in time, or great suffering would have resulted.

When the vessel commenced breaking up the cargo drifted ashore, and casks containing liquor were broken out by the passengers, and drunkenness and disorder prevailed. Fearing that bloodshed would result, if this order of things was allowed to continue, Captain Comstock was organized to destroy the liquor as fast as it came ashore. The passengers had no confidence in Captain Comstock, and paid no attention to his orders. An indignation meeting was held on the Colorado, which passed resolutions that in their opinion the wreck of the Golden City was due to the drunkenness and incompetence of the commanding officer, and that much unnecessary suffering ashore could be traced to the same source. The passengers, with but few exceptions, reached here by the Colorado a few days ago. The baggage and treasure were left on the beach under proper guard.

Roll call aboard the Colorado showed the following steerage passengers missing: Allen Stillar, Michael Donavon, Alex McPherson, Peter Hughes, Joseph Thibley, Nicholas Addison, G. Rouell, Joseph Thibley, Nicholas Libet, Miss A. Libet, Mrs. Hughes, Harold H. Smith, Jas. Cannon, Jas. Burgess, R. Rennewald, St. Tobias, and O'Donovan, McPherson is known to have gone ashore with a gold stick, it is reported four others remained with him, which leaves seven missing. There were 195 names on the steerage roll, and six or eight paid passage whose names were not added. It is supposed the missing ones were lost while trying to reach the shore. Captain Comstock and several other officers remained in camp to guard the baggage and treasure. The company's agents state that some of the cabin passengers are missing, but the statement is hardly credited, so far as the steerage is concerned. The passengers brought back by the Colorado have been besieging the company's office all day, clamoring for the return of their money, for insurance of tickets, and pay for loss of baggage.

It is estimated that the number of passengers condemnatory of Captain Comstock were unjust. Only part of those aboard the Golden City approved them. He should be given credit for having rescued every passenger.

The sufferings of the passengers of the Golden City on the march from the scene of the disaster to Santa Maria Bay, a distance of twenty-five miles, is described as terrible. There was no water, and but little hard bread. Old men, women and children walked twenty-four hours over rocky mountains, under a burning sun, and arrived at Santa Maria Bay worn out and nearly with fatigue. Every passenger has his version, but all agree as to the principal incidents. When all reached the land one of the boats was rigged with a sail, manned by six or eight men, and sent to look out for the Colorado, but it appeared to have missed the steamer in the night time. Nothing was heard of the boat since the hour of the sailing of the Colorado.

It is believed that the number of passengers missing. Some say nine and some say fifteen. The latter is considered the most correct, but it is agreed that all came off the steamer in safety.

Philadelphia Iron Market.

SATURDAY, February 26.—Pig iron has attracted more attention, particularly in the Eastern markets, although the mills are slow to purchase, the impression being general that prices will yet go lower. In many of the iron districts the furnace owners are reducing wages, meeting with little or no opposition, as skilled labor is not called into requisition; but in the rolling mills, where skilled labor is required, they are obliged to move cautiously, and attempts at the proposed reduction have been met with little success. There have been large sales of "Gleason" reported on terms which did not transpire, but supposed to be at about $21, at which price the iron can be made for other first-class irons. The decline has affected Scotch iron materially, and it can be quietly purchased, with little prospect for any demand before the opening of navigation, and then we look for delivery during the season that have transpired have been mostly at a price to be based on the opening market, say $20 for 1,500 tons Lehigh grade No. 1 X at $20; 500 tons do on secret terms; 500 tons do do at $20 50; 500 tons Lehigh grade No. 2 X, long gray forge at $21; 500 tons mottled on private terms, and considerable lots of the latter, for spring delivery, on secret terms.

Howe Sewing Machines

No. 4 St. Clair street. tf

Alternate Loss and Excess of Appetite.

And grinding of the teeth, are symptoms of worms. B. A. Fahnestock's Vermifuge is a certain remedy. TTSS

Howe Sewing Machines.

No. 4 St. Clair street. tf

PUBLIC DEBT.

Official Statement for February.

Decrease During the Month $6,484,811—Since First of March, 1869, $87,134,782.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—The following is the public debt statement:

Debt bearing coin interest	$2,107,479,650 00
Bearing currency interest	1,000,000 00
Debt on which interest has ceased	2,973,346 64
Debt bearing no interest	449,142,857 56
Total	$2,561,595,793 42
Amount in Treasury—Coin	102,800,750 00
Currency	10,260,205 68
Building fund bonds and interest	22,870,000 00
Special fund bonds and interest	72,782,765 81
Total	$ 213,340,348 26
Debt, less cash in Treasury	2,348,255,477 17
Decrease this month	6,484,811 75
Decrease since March 1st, 1869	87,134,782 84
Bonds issued to Pacific Railroad Companies, interest payable in lawful money—amount outstanding	64,627,320 00
Interest accrued and not yet paid	677,541 20
Interest paid by United States	6,981,644 96
Interest paid by transportation of mails	1,994,074 61
Balance—Interest paid by United States	4,987,570 35

SHIPWRECK.

Loss of the Steamship Golden City on the Coast of Lower California—The Passengers and Treasure Landed—Commander of the Vessel Said to be Responsible for the Disaster and Subsequent Suffering.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 2.—The particulars are received of the loss of the Golden City, which left here February 16th for Panama, with a valuable cargo, including gold coin and bullion received by the China steamer, and a heavy treasure list, and about four hundred passengers, on the morning of the 23d, about seven o'clock, the vessel ashore near Point Lazaro, Lower California, about fifteen miles from the Bay of Santa Maria. The passengers, baggage and treasure were landed with little difficulty, the sea being smooth, but the location barren and uninhabited. Captain Comstock at once proceeded to Point Lazaro to erect a signal and keep a lookout for the Colorado, which was signalled about noon, but which it was impossible for the steamer to receive the sufferers aboard on account of the violence of the storm of the heavy surf. They were compelled to wait to Santa Maria bay over a barren waste, and endure great suffering from hunger and thirst. Several passengers were lost in the sand hills and underbrush, and left behind. Only a small quantity of provisions and water were saved from the wreck. Fortunately the Colorado arrived in time, or great suffering would have resulted.

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EXTRA

INDUCEMENTS!!

PREMIUMS FOR

New Subscribers

FOR THE

COMMERCIAL,

FOR 1870.

In order that all our new subscribers to the WEEKLY COMMERCIAL may share alike in the inducements we offer, we have made arrangements to furnish each single subscriber, at two dollars a year, with a valuable picture. The COMMERCIAL alone is fully worth the subscription price, but we are persuaded to offer this extra inducement in order that our circulation may be more rapidly extended. We have been at great cost in procuring these pictures, and the subscription price of our Weekly will scarcely cover the outlay. Every new subscriber, therefore, commencing December 1st, 1869, who sends us two dollars, will receive one of the following six pictures, the subscriber taking his choice:

I.—THE STRAW YARD.

The Straw Yard is copied from J. F. Herring's celebrated painting. It is a picture that speaks to all the finer feelings of our nature, and is drawn from the human point of action, and is therefore equally free from the artificial and begged commonality. The Straw Yard is one of his finest efforts, delicious in color, perfect finally in details, displaying an appreciation of nature seldom found in the treatment of kindred subjects, and possessing a charm of handling entirely conveyed with draggled, damp straw, through which variously the light and shade pierce them in the open bin, and occupying a central position are two horses, whose very attitude suggests repose. Through weighted limb extending over them has sheltered them from the wet and cold of the last few gust days. The fowl darting in and out between the horses hoods in quest of a chance grain or grub, the cat curved in sleep, and equally indifferent to danger. Association, familiarity in their midst, the pigeons that introduces turn their bills under their wings in calm security; the pigs bury their snouts deep under the dark straw in their respective pens, care the vegetables flung down for their special benefit, attracting by their selfish grunts those of their family in the distance, which are no ways slow in responding to the call of a common enemy. In the middle of the group of horses seek the shelter of a shed, from under which they cast occasional glances inquisitively, snuffing the frosty air and varying the monotony of the winter day by handling their fodder in their own fashion. The picture is equally suitable for the drawing-room or library.

II.—SHEARING TIME.

The conception of this picture is so simple as to appeal at once to the sympathies of the beholder. Its perspective, like its principal figures, is true to nature. "Shearing Time" is inspired from one of the oldest paintings produced by A. Berendsen, a famous artist. "Shearing Time" represents the real poetry of lowly life, and is satisfied to get loans at this price. Outside applicants for money are supplied at from 10 to 12 per cent per annum. There is quite a scarcity of acceptable offerings on the open market, the banks and deposit houses being able to take nearly all of the good offerings, which are usually sold through the brokers. Excessive dullness characterized the local stock market. The transactions have been so light that it is difficult to establish any correct quotations for many of our best securities. Reports come to us frequently that such and such stocks or bonds sold at prices which are evidently fictitious, and unworthy of attention. In absence of any regular Stock Exchange in our city there is much difficulty experienced in obtaining correct reports.

—There was more steadiness to-day in the gold premium. It is remarked that the last break in the market was the result of a bold speculative surprise and not to legitimate causes. It is now well understood that the party operating this movement contemplate a permanent advance in gold and bonds, which can be followed by a "bull" movement in both. They are understood to have sent out an agent to Europe, for concurrently manipulating the bond market here, this special mission being first to force up bonds, so to aid the fall of gold here; and, next, that result having been effected, and the clique having supplied themselves with gold and bonds on the rise, to put down the price of securities abroad, thereby facilitating an upward revulsion in the gold premium. As the discovery of this scheme establishes a strong probability of a wide difference in the views of dealers, which neither appears willing to give way. How long the market will continue in its present unsettled state time only will determine.

—The changes in government bonds were very light to-day. The parties engaged in "carrying" gold are understood to be chiefly buying in a large amount of bonds, and the larger dealers are consequently wary about supplying any speculative demand and hold their stock firmly. The investment movement is light.

Messrs. Ira R. McVay & Co., report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Closing.
U. S. Bonds '81	116½	116½	116½
U. S. Bonds '62	114½	114½	114½
U. S. Bonds '64	112½	112½	112½
U. S. Bonds '65	112½	112½	112½
U. S. Bonds '65, ——(1)	112½	112½	112½
U. S. Bonds '65, ——(2)	112½	112½	112½
U. S. Bonds '67	112½	112½	112½
U. S. Bonds '68	112½	112½	112½
Coupons	116	116	116
Gold	116	116	116

James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

	Mar. 1.	Mar. 2.	Adv.	Dec.
Gold	116	116		
U. S. Bonds, 1881	116½	116½		
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '62	114½	114½		
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '64	112½	112½		
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '65	112½	112½		
U. S. Bonds, new iss. '65	112½	112½		
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '67	112½	112½		
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '68	112½	112½		
U. S. Currency	111½	111½		

—The following table, made up from dispatches received at J. W. Kennedy's Stock Exchange Building, No. 57 Fourth avenue, shows the prices of Railway Stocks, Gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Boards during the day:

March 2, 1870.	10 00	11	12	13	1 P M.	2	3	3 30
New York Central	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½
Erie	25½	25½	25½	25½	25½	25½	25½	25½
Harlem	140							
Reading	97½				97½			97½
Michigan Central								
Michigan Southern	93							
Illinois Central	139							
Cleveland & Pitts.								
Chicago and North Western	73½							
Chicago and Rock Island	119							
St. Paul	63½							
St. Paul, preferred	76½							
Fort Wayne	97½							
Chicago and Alton	110½							
Ohio and Mississippi	31½							
Western U. Tel	35½							
Quicksilver	34½							
Adams Express	61½							
Wells, Fargo & Co	61½							
American Express	61½							
U. S. Express	95½							
Pacific Mail	108½							

—James W. Kennedy, Broker, No. 80 Fourth avenue, (Apollo Building), dealer in United States Bonds, Gold, State and Railroad Bonds, Bank, Insurance and Miscellaneous Stocks. Being represented in the New York Stock Board, he is able to execute, on commission, purchases and sells on commission any stocks on the New York list, on the same terms as the New York brokers. Governments, Gold and Railway Stocks purchased for customers on the usual margin.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 2, 1870.

The local money market is not as active as usual, but the demand is fully equal to the demand upon it. Customers at banks have no difficulty in getting their drafts or notes discounted, at the usual rates, and some of our banks accommodate their old customers as low as 7 or 8 per cent. per annum. Custom, however, has established about 9 per cent. as present bank rates for the use of money, and most borrowers seem well satisfied to get loans at this price. Outside applicants for money are supplied at from 10 to 12 per cent per annum. There is quite a scarcity of acceptable offerings on the open market, the banks and deposit houses being able to take nearly all of the good offerings, which are usually sold through the brokers. Excessive dullness characterized the local stock market. The transactions have been so light that it is difficult to establish any correct quotations for many of our best securities. Reports come to us frequently that such and such stocks or bonds sold at prices which are evidently fictitious, and unworthy of attention. In absence of any regular Stock Exchange in our city there is much difficulty experienced in obtaining correct reports.

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—The changes in government bonds were very light to-day. The parties engaged in "carrying" gold are understood to be chiefly buying in a large amount of bonds, and the larger dealers are consequently wary about supplying any speculative demand and hold their stock firmly. The investment movement is light.

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PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, }
WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 2, 1870. }

BUSINESS.—The market may be said to be at a complete stand-still. There is no movement of any kind under way. There is evidently a wide difference in the views of dealers, which neither appears willing to give way. How long the market will continue in its present unsettled state time only will determine.

Up to the time of writing this report we have not learned of a single transaction for any delivery. The rates are altogether nominal, as follows: Spot 12@12½c—if reporters are to be relied on sales are made at or near these figures; seller's option till July 12c; buyer's option all year 14@14½c.

LATER—Since the above was written we are reported the following sales: 1,000 bbls at Parker's Landing at 11½c; 1,000 bbls at 11¾c.

REVISED

Dullness was the prevailing feature. We have learned of no transactions. The nominal rates were as follows: Spot 27½c; March, S., 28c; April to June 28½c; March to December, 29c; May to June 29½c; 30% cash and March to June 28½c; S. O. all year 32½@32½c.

DISPATCHES.

[By Western Associated Press Telegraph.]

NEW YORK, March 2.—Closing March 1st —Petroleum—crude bulk quiet and unchanged; 500 sold at 20c; refined quiet and unchanged for any demand; prices unchanged; 1,000 barrels sold privately; large lots obtainable at 28½c. Philadelphia delivered—crude bulk nominal at 20c; refined dull and declined; some call from speculators; sales 3,000 bbls standard white at 27½c, and a line from Allegheny at 27½c; 1,000 bbls at 28c; 500 bbls standard at 28½c; 1,000 bbls at 29c; 1,000 bbls at 29½c; 1,000 bbls at 30c; 1,000 bbls at 30½c; 1,000 bbls at 31c; 1,000 bbls at 31½c; 1,000 bbls at 32c; 1,000 bbls at 32½c; 1,000 bbls at 33c; 1,000 bbls at 33½c; 1,000 bbls at 34c; 1,000 bbls at 34½c; 1,000 bbls at 35c; 1,000 bbls at 35½c; 1,000 bbls at 36c; 1,000 bbls at 36½c; 1,000 bbls at 37c; 1,000 bbls at 37½c; 1,000 bbls at 38c; 1,000 bbls at 38½c; 1,000 bbls at 39c; 1,000 bbls at 39½c; 1,000 bbls at 40c; 1,000 bbls at 40½c; 1,000 bbls at 41c; 1,000 bbls at 41½c; 1,000 bbls at 42c; 1,000 bbls at 42½c; 1,000 bbls at 43c; 1,000 bbls at 43½c; 1,000 bbls at 44c; 1,000 bbls at 44½c; 1,000 bbls at 45c; 1,000 bbls at 45½c; 1,000 bbls at 46c; 1,000 bbls at 46½c; 1,000 bbls at 47c; 1,000 bbls at 47½c; 1,000 bbls at 48c; 1,000 bbls at 48½c; 1,000 bbls at 49c; 1,000 bbls at 49½c; 1,000 bbls at 50c; 1,000 bbls at 50½c; 1,000 bbls at 51c; 1,000 bbls at 51½c; 1,000 bbls at 52c; 1,000 bbls at 52½c; 1,000 bbls at 53c; 1,000 bbls at 53½c; 1,000 bbls at 54c; 1,000 bbls at 54½c; 1,000 bbls at 55c; 1,000 bbls at 55½c; 1,000 bbls at 56c; 1,000 bbls at 56½c; 1,000 bbls at 57c; 1,000 bbls at 57½c; 1,000 bbls at 58c; 1,000 bbls at 58½c; 1,000

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1870.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$2 00
In clubs of twenty, per copy.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SELLING THEIR INFLUENCE AND THE OFFICES.

The case of WHITTEMORE is one of many. As a member of Congress he held in his hands the appointment of two cadets at West Point. He sold the cadetships for money, and was found out. In the latter fact only his case is believed to vary from a number of others. He was virtually expelled, that is, he resigned the moment before the vote on expelling him was taken; and he being no longer a member of that body, the House of Representatives had to content itself with solemnly declaring, which it did unanimously, that Mr. WHITTEMORE was unworthy of a seat there. Other legislators of the kind are understood to be in the hopper, and there is some reason for supposing that Mr. WHITTEMORE will not stand alone in dishonor. As this case is one of many, so the dishonorable practice of selling cadetships is but one phase, and perhaps not the worst one either, of the traffic wherein Congressmen sell their power and influence in the matter of appointments to office. A vicious system has long prevailed at Washington, which tends directly and inevitably to this species of corruption. On the "indorsements" of Congressmen a large share of the appointments to the local offices is made. How much less reprehensible is it in a member of Congress, under such circumstances, in consideration of money paid or promised, to "indorse" applications for peace-masters, or some other offices, which this vicious custom has placed within his gift, than the selling of a cadetship after the fashion of WHITTEMORE? Are not the two acts equally dishonorable and ought not the stamp of ignominy, placed on WHITTEMORE, be placed on the member of Congress who sells his "indorsement?" At the very least persons holding office as the result of this species of traffic, should be ejected from their places without ceremony. Do such cases exist? For the present we will express the opinion that such cases do exist.

It seems to us that heads of Departments should imitate the example of the House of Representatives, and institute a thorough scrutiny into the methods by which, whether or not they, and the Presidential also, have conferred appointments as the result of the payment or promise of money to the Congressman on whose "indorsement" they acted. Nothing more valuable as assisting to purify the civil service could be done than such an investigation. It would strike directly at a vile species of corruption, at practices involving the personal dishonor of men in high station, and at that which, in a great degree, poisons the sources of party politics. As Secretary BOUTWELL has the reputation of being a pure and courageous man, we suggest that he begin the inquiry. Perhaps he knows how and where. Other heads of Departments would doubtless follow his example.

THE "BORDER CLAIMS" AGAIN.

Advices from Harrisburg represent that the "Border Raid" people are present in strong force, have established their headquarters at one of the principal hotels, and have gone to work to put their swindle through the Legislature, by all the appliances known to corrupt legislation. The bribe direct will of course be the main reliance. We see no reason to modify the views we have heretofore expressed on this iniquitous scheme. The assemblymen and Senators from the seven counties interested will possibly sink their character as representatives of the people of the whole Commonwealth, and go for the bill on the miserable plea of local interests and advantage. But this will not detract an iota from the degradation of their vote. Outside of these members, locally interested, and whose political bread and butter depends on their sanction of the proposed robbery, we repeat that we cannot see how the bill in the shape in which it stands, can receive an honest vote. We understand perfectly, by what this implies. Without stopping to argue whether the State is responsible for a dollar of the claims—admit that it is—yet the bill is so drawn as to make certain the most enormous frauds. It invites the commission of all sorts of rascality. No safeguards are provided to protect the tax payers and the Treasury of the Commonwealth. The doors are flung wide open, and whoever can muster the ingenuity to concoct a bogus claim and the unscrupulousness to back it with a lying affidavit, is invited to help himself. The statement that the claims have passed into the hands of speculators is confirmed by our Harrisburg dispatches, which state that "thus "far no individuals injured in the "border counties have yet appeared to "urge their claims before the Committee." It further appears that whole counties are claimed by the county committees heretofore appointed to appraise damages, does not exceed seventy-five thousand dollars. Yet the "Raiders" assume the damages to amount to something between two and five millions of dollars; and to realize they propose to deplete the Treasury of every cent of its available funds, and then go into the streets with a State loan.

Everything connected with this outrageous proposition has the odor of jobbery and plunder. A scheme to reimburse the citizens of Western Pennsylvania for swindle in business during the war—they themselves to be the judges and fix the amounts—would not afford a stronger invitation to fraud, and would be just as legitimate, as the "border claims." Are we wrong, therefore, in claiming that every member who gives his vote for the swindle, will be justly liable to the suspicion that he has been bargained for and has obtained his price? This conclusion is inevitable, and it is the only one the people of the State will accept as the rule governing their action towards the corrupt members. We advise any one who contemplates sanctioning this robbery by his vote, to be sure of his pay, and make it a good round sum. The temptations of public life will never beset him again.

Should the bill pass, a duty will remain for Governor GEARY that we have every confidence he will meet as nobly as he did the issue presented by the Philadelphia police bill. His veto may be necessary to protect the people and vindicate himself. We cannot permit ourselves to doubt what will be his action.

SAUL AMONG THE PROPHETS.

Noble love of pame neither limit nor restriction to its aims and desires. That is rather a paltry ambition which rests quietly satisfied with distinction in a single department of exertion, or with eminence in one character. The orator who had made the best speech ever delivered in the House of Commons, did not feel that he had succeeded in life until he had produced the best comedy of his century. RICHELIEU, as prime minister of France, wielding the destinies of Europe, was harassed with envy and discontent because he was not acknowledged as the greatest master of dramatic composition. But this insatiable sort of ambition is, perhaps, most strikingly illustrated in our own day and country. In several characters our great Pennsylvania Senator, CAMERON, is, on all hands, admitted to stand, "if not first, in the very first line." What these characters are it would be a stretch upon the intelligence of our readers to put specify. Not satisfied with these manifold and unquestionable titles to distinction, he has lately advanced a new claim to the admiration and reverence of his countrymen. In the debate in the Senate, a few days ago, on the admission of Mr. REVELS to a seat, our admirable CAMERON related the particulars of a remarkable interview between himself and JEFFERSON DAVIS just prior to the war, while DAVIS was still a member of the Senate. CAMERON informed his *confreres* that, at this interview, he foretold to DAVIS the moment when slavery would cease and when his (DAVIS') seat in the Senate would be occupied by a negro.

Most people, we fancy, will regard this appearance of CAMERON among the prophets in the light in which it first presented itself to us, as a new *role* assumed by him to manifest the universality of his mental and moral endowments. Two view seems forced upon us by the retrospective nature of the claim. Were the Senator to commit a prophet at present, the pretense might seem natural enough; it would receive plausibility from his many years and most intercourse with the world, and we know that

"Old experience may attain
To something like prophetic strain."

But, it seems, this gift of direct foreknowledge was possessed by the Senator, many years ago, in his comparative youth. No intimation is given of intercourse with spirits, or of tampering with clairvoyants, and we are plainly intended to ascribe the prediction to a personal faculty of prevision, but whether as the result of a momentary illapse or afflatus, or of inducement inspiration, we are left to conjecture. That our admirable statesman wished to be understood as claiming something more than mere sagacious anticipation of the natural course of events is evident beyond controversy from his use of the prediction in debate. The purpose of his statement was to induce Senators to admit Mr. REVELS to a seat in the chair once occupied by JEFFERSON DAVIS. And surely a most effective mode of accomplishing this object was to let them know that the predestination of a negro to sit in that particular seat was a thing known to CAMERON and foretold to DAVIS years ago. In any other view the statement was an idle and irrelevant vaunt of the Senator's own sagacity, a suggestion quite inconsistent with the well known modesty and good sense of our venerable representative.

Another portion of Mr. CAMERON'S speech in this REVELS debate must have impressed the Senators less favorably. Mr. WILLIAMS, for the purpose of setting aside the application of the DRED SCOTT decision to Mr. REVELS's case, stated that the latter having much white blood in him, was certainly a citizen, as not being wholly descended from slaves. Whereupon Mr. CAMERON "considered the attempt of the Senator from Oregon to argue that this man had more white than black blood in his veins unworthy of any Senator, in view of the great services of the colored soldiers."

Quite right to stand up for the colored soldiers; but as a response to the Oregon Senator's remarks, CAMERON's retort was flabby and reminds one of Mrs. CAUDLE's manner of meeting Mr. CAUDLE's remonstrances. It should seem that CAMERON, in his desire to praise the colored soldiers, was content to talk drivel.

PROPOSED THEOLOGICAL AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

A small, respectable and, in point of numbers, insignificant religious sect has for many years existed in this country, one of whose distinctive peculiarities has been a refusal to recognize the entire legitimacy of the United States Government on account of an alleged defect in its Constitution. This defect is the omission of any formal recognition of the Almighty as the Ruler of nations and as the source of all governmental authority. Not through the influence of this sect, but in a quite independent way, Christian citizens of denominations differing widely in their religious views, have for half a century or more, from time to time, declared their dissatisfaction with the Constitution on the same grounds.

Soon after the outbreak of the late civil war, voices in acknowledgement of the alleged defect and in calls for its correction, were simultaneously raised in sections of the Northern States distant from one another. Some of the persons who thus spoke were, no doubt, influenced somewhat by the decidedly religious features of the newly adopted constitution of the Confederacy. They felt that the rebels had, in this respect, improved the venerable instrument. But in many the sentiment favorable to a distinct recognition of the Almighty in the fundamental law of the land, was almost certainly produced by a conviction of the presence of divine judgments. Again, by the discussion of the right of secession and of the right of coercion, others had been led to inquire into the first principles of all human government. They had heard those subjects talked about often enough, but a wordy debate ending in nothing worse than a difference of opinion is one thing, while a debate that sends a million of men to battle is a very different thing. And it was quite likely that many, even of our public instructors, were maddened by the early calamities of the great war, for the first time in their lives, to understand the practical nature of those abstract doctrines on which all government is founded. While the war lasted, in all parts of the country one of the most effective appeals for men and means to carry it on was the argument that in fighting for their Government against rebels the people were maintaining the cause of GOD. In the same thought, multitudes of our best soldiers found courage in battle and consolation in the hour of death.

Perhaps in a considerable degree as the result of having the religious aspect of government thus brought before them, a number were prompted to express themselves in favor of a direct and formal acknowledgment of the Almighty in the Constitution of the United States, that a real movement was begun in that direction. Several conventions have been already held in its interest, we know not how numerously attended. A national association has been formed for the purpose of securing an amendment of the Constitution, and a call has been issued for a convention, with that object, to meet in Pittsburgh on the 3d day of March next. This call is signed by the Hon. WILLIAM STRONG, lately appointed Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, President and by several distinguished gentlemen, Vice Presidents of the association.

These men are neither fools nor enthusiasts, and however much we may dissent from their views, we ought to endeavor to understand them. Indeed all of them, may be desiring to secure a constitutional amendment of a nature inconsistent with the religious convictions of some Christian sects. But the recognition of the Almighty as the author of national existence and as the source of law, would surely not involve any infringement upon any liberties which the people of this country are bound, or desire to respect. The acknowledgement of the Bible as a divine revelation, and as containing the doctrines and principles of religion and morals upon which our legislation rests, would seem to be equally free from fair objection. Both these features incorporated in the Constitution would form merely a direct recognition of what is impliedly recognized in the inauguration oath and in every court of justice in the country. We are, however, under the impression that these generalities would not satisfy the persons who are most prominent in the movement. Indeed, it is probable that the admission into the Constitution of a portion of their theology without the whole would be regarded with less favor than the rejection of the whole. Then, it may well be doubted whether the theological amendment adopted by a divided vote, would not do more harm than good. The inevitable preliminary discussion could hardly fail to be mischievous in tendency and effect. The argument that God is dishonored by the silence of the Constitution does not strike us forcibly. Under a political system like ours the opinions and sentiments of a majority of the people give character to the government in the sight of heaven as well as of men, and a devout clause in a written instrument, unsustained by the voice of the people, would surely command as little respect above as below. Nor are we able to believe that the amendment proposed, if adopted, would afford any aid in the conflict with radical innovators. With them the battle must be maintained and victory secured by argument. Unless they can be defeated in that way, and their noxious principles kept from spreading, we do not see that there is any help.

Though Americans are not immediately concerned in either the actions or character of the Prince of Wales, it seems likely that most of them read about him with more or less interest. He once visited us; he is the son of VICTORIA and of ALBERT, the Good, both respected here as over the water; and, finally, he will, in all probability, some day, be King of England. By the cable dispatches published in Saturday's COMMERCIAL, we learned that the *Times* ascribes the Prince's innocent involvement with the scandalous MORDAUNT case, to his "carelessness of his reputation and heedlessness in matters of personal intimacies forbidden to royalty. For the Prince's edification "the Thunderer" recalls his father's example, and promises that he will in future follow it. In the last day or two there is an article on the Prince by a person familiar with London and its gossip, in which the opinion is expressed that the English papers have done mischief by lecturing the Prince too much. This they did when he was a quite promising young fellow. At present the writer believes him an almost unspeakably unexemplary person. He is described as a very fat, stolid, permature bald, elderly young man." "A more stupid looking man than the Prince it would be hard to find." He habitually frequents theaters of the lowest class, &c. In features and expression he is more like old GEORGE III. than like GEORGE IV. to whom he is oftenest compared. But we referred to the article for the purpose of mentioning a circumstance reported by the writer, which serves to illustrate the remark of the *Times* about "intimacies forbidden to royalty." It appears that the Prince is a zealous seeker after notabilities of all sorts, famous and infamous. The magazine writer says:

"The Prince has more than once visited the Pope, and he has had an audience with Garibaldi; indeed, he seems to have a harmless liking for knowing personally all persons who are talked about. He fancy he himself up the Pope, and Garibaldi, and Arthur Bright, and Robert Lowe, and, as he sought for Mr. Train, the comic actor, or Blandin, or Chang the giant."

It may deserve notice as a rather remarkable fact, that this Prince of Wales is utterly indifferent to politics, and gives no sign of having anything to do with Parliamentary opposition. Perhaps if his predecessor were a father instead of a mother, he might take a different course.

"THOMAS NICHOLSON, Esq., cashier of "the present State Treasurer, testifies that "during the eight different years with which "he had been associated with the State "Treasury, he never saw a transaction the "whole world might not look on." So runs a Harrisburg dispatch. While it is eminently suggestive of the secrecy and skill with which the "Treasury ring" have managed their operations, it explains the difficulties in the way of the investigating committee. In eight years' sevice Mr. NICHOLSON never saw anything wrong. That is what he means, of course. Yet in that eight years time State Treasurers have become wealthy on a seventeen hundred dollar salary; the State funds have been loaned to banks, public and private; even private individuals have had pecuniary favors bestowed on them from the treasury; the sinking fund has been plundered to enable larger loans to the banks; and liberal advances on their salaries have been made to officials. In fact, under Mr. NICHOLSON'S very eyes the "unexpended balance" has been manipulated for eight years, and he has never seen anything "the whole world might not look upon." In the line of virtuous simplicity this has never been excelled; but we dislike complimenting the honesty of men at the sacrifice of their common sense and intelligence.

On the 24th instant, the anniversary of the proclamation of the French Republic was very generally celebrated in Paris and probably in other cities. The telegraph connects with this statement the noteworthy circumstance, that these assemblies of the people, conducted themselves with perfect order, and that the Police nowhere found occasion to interfere with the proceedings. No room, we believe, exists for doubt that the great artisan class and, even to a considerable extent, the class of mere laborers in France have at length become fairly possessed of and duly impressed with the notion of the energy of mere moral force. Not very many years ago, this idea was as completely foreign to the thoughts of those classes as the theory of the precession of the equinoxes, or the doctrine of the conservation of force in the physical world. A succession of revolutions, the advance of intelligence through the spread of books and the circulation of newspapers, and the habit of spending their leisure in the discussion of historical and economical questions, must be recognized as some, perhaps the chief causes of the change in these men. However to be accounted for, it seems to be so real and obvious that, as we stated the other day, shrewd observers on the ground are confident that the reign of violence is over in France. We may trust and rejoice that this is so, but before setting it down as certain, we had better wait for more conclusive tests than any yet tried.

Massachusetts is getting up in the fashion. Her Legislature is accused of "raids on the Treasury."

The celebrated physiologist and physicist, HELMHOLTZ, is one of working-men. The son of a poor schoolmaster, he made a hard struggle, lasting three years, and including clinical and anatomical lectures. The diplomas obtainable in consequence will give them the right to establish themselves as physicians in any part of the kingdom.

A curious suit is soon to come on in London. A few months ago the Earl St. Maur, eldest son of the Duke of Somerset, died suddenly. His brother and heir-at-law, Lord Seymour, has taken treatment on the part of the medical man who attended him, and has, it seems, been using very strong language in regard to the offending doctor, stigmatizing him as "a hypocritical murderer." The Duchess is granddaughter of the celebrated Richard Brinsley Sheridan, and consequently sister of Mrs. Norton.

The Iron Works at Harlem, New York, have suspended payment. Unfinished contracts to the amount of $65,000 have been placed in the hands of the sheriff. Heretofore the company employed 270 men, most of whom will be retained for the work of completing the contracts. The liabilities of the company are stated at $200,000, but it is believed that the assets, if sufficient time is allowed for their conversion, will more than cover the amount. The concern was, during the war, one of the largest in the country, employing at one time as many as 1,500 men. The property is owned by Homer Ramsdell, one of the Directors of the Erie Railroad Company, from whom it was leased by the company referred to.

The New York plasterers, who have been on a strike against returning to the old ten hour system, have agreed at a mass meeting to give up the eight-hour plan, and work for any rate of wages which may be offered, in any number of hours named by the employers.

A large meeting has been held in New York, in the Ninth ward, to express the feelings of the citizens of New York at the manner in which crime is increasing, and to devise some means whereby it may be checked and abated. A committee of ten was, after an exciting debate, appointed to wait upon the District Attorney and request him to spare no time in bringing about the punishment of murderers now under confinement in the City Prison.

Miss Louisa Bradley of Peacham, N. Y. died recently as was supposed from a recent fall on the ice. In the *post mortem* examination of her lungs, the lower parts of both lungs were found to be ossified to a certain extent, and in a manner never before observed. There were also many small bones, the longest about an inch in length, and varying in size and shape. It would be only a slight exaggeration to say the lungs were like bones. The immediate cause of death was congestion of the lungs, however. Measures have been taken to call the attention of eminent medical men to this singular case.

A memorial has been prepared by President Woolsey of Yale College, and numerously signed by leading business men and professors in colleges, asking Congress to include in the coming census all incomes, large and small, derived from every sort of business, as they have done in the past, by this means that the national resources can be properly ascertained.

The great hall of the Cooper Institute has been engaged for the 16th of March for a grand mass meeting of working-women. The convention will be held for the purpose of organizing the different branches of female labor, with a view to forming co-operative workshops. There will be two sessions—day and evening.

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PEOPLE are asking, why does gold go down? Some are bothering their heads to find all sorts of difficult and roundabout answers. But plain people conclude that gold goes down simply because it can't help it. There is nothing to keep it up. It is natural that it should go down. The fluctuating currency of which Wall street gambling is the worst, have kept it up a long time. But Wall street has wearied. Nor are serious consequences likely to ensue. Gold at par would add from two to three hundred millions to the volume of currency. For six or seven years gold has been merely an article of merchandise, and was no more a part in the volume of currency than the Delaware peach crop. As it approaches par gold will resume its legitimate place—and business of every kind will be lively on a solid basis. So let gold go down—gradually yet surely.

Of the five millions of Northern Pacific Railroad stock recently offered, we understand that seven hundred thousand has been taken in Pittsburgh. The report that the Secretary of the Treasury has ruled that all land grants to railroads must be located on air-lines, unless natural barriers intervene, that the Northern Pacific Railroad Company had been obliged to change its plan materially and stop surveys, is denied. We are assured that Secretary BOUTWELL has not only not made any such decision, but he has had no authority to do so, the land grants to railroads being solely within the control of the Secretary of the Interior, who, also, has not made any such rule. Instead of the Northern Pacific road altering its plans or stopping its surveys, it is progressing through Minnesota to the Red River with the greatest attainable certainty and speed.

CAMERON'S expulsion from Mr. LINCOLN'S Cabinet is becoming a lively topic. Interesting as the facts will be when we get at all of them, as we shall before long, they will not be more so than a truthful narrative of the circumstances attending CAMERON'S appointment to a seat in Mr. LINCOLN'S Cabinet. When some Pennsylvania Republicans, acting as a committee in CAMERON'S behalf, visited Mr. LINCOLN in Springfield, his first response to the suggestion was this: "Why, gentlemen, up here, where I am sometimes called 'honest old ABE,' the selection of CAMERON would disgrace me." But in the course of time Mr. LINCOLN was overpersuaded, as it was sometimes his nature to be, and CAMERON went into the War, not the Treasury Department, which was the place he wanted.

We begin to believe that West Point need not fortify itself against those enemies who propose to abolish it. Cadetships are too good a thing as a source of revenue to members of Congress to admit of any apprehension as to the future of this institution,—unless, indeed, the present spasm of investigation and expulsion hurts the business of selling appointments to such a degree that members will become virtuous and vote it the nursery of scamps and an unnecessary expense to the country. There is no knowing what the exposure of trafficking Congressmen may lead to in the display of virtue.

THE centenary of American independence, on the Fourth of July, 1876, deserves a national recognition, and of course Philadelphia is the place above all others on the continent where the grand celebration should take place. The authorities and citizens of that city are early in the field with the note of preparation, but unless provision is made for legitimate succession, the committees already appointed may become extinct before the six years roll around between this and the centennial. It would be a good plan to charter the committees, with the usual powers of succession.

The Italian Opera has failed again in New York, Mr. Maretzek having been brought to grief the hundredth time. Whereat Philadelphia jubilates. Mr. Baretzek says in his card that he had promised Mlle. Carlotta Patti in the "Magic Flute" as one of the attractions of the season, but having received a letter from Max Strakosch informing him that in consequence of her recent illness all her engagements would have to be postponed, and she could not visit New York until April, he thought it best to put all performances off until she could appear, or he could prepare a compensating novelty.

THE universal verdict is that Whittemore made a mistake in permitting Butler to make the defense he did for him. The belief appears to be that he would have fared better had he made his statement in a straight forward manner, and thrown himself on the mercy of the House. It is curious to note that Butler did not vote to sustain his client.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The horse hospital attached to the New York Fire Department has been established for over three years. Previous to November, 1866, the sick horses were treated by private veterinary surgeons, and at much greater expense than under the present plan. The New York Fire Department owns in the aggregate one hundred and sixty horses, all over sixteen hands high, strong, sound, docile, and able to trot a mile in four minutes. To going to a fire running is not permitted, the prescribed gait being a four minute trot and a walk on the way home. The principal diseases treated in the hospital are tender feet, bad legs, colds and cholics.

An estimate has been made of the annual consumption of tobacco in ounces, per head, in the following named countries: Belgium leads off with 156 to 160 ounces; then follows Holland with 130 ounces; the United States, 120; Denmark, 120; Austria, 110; Norway, 100; France, 80; Spain, 70 to 80; Portugal, 50 to 60; Russia, 40; Sardinia, 40; Tuscany 30 to 40; Papal States, 30. The 240 millions of people in Austria, Prussia and Central Germany, consume the largest quantity per head.

The average wages paid to farm laborers in 1869, according to the report of the Department of Agriculture, are $25 13 without board, and $15 88 with board. The average wages for the different sections of the country in 1868 and in 1869 were as follows: In 1869—Eastern States, $33 30; Middle States, $30 07; Western States, $28 91; Southern States, $16; California, $45 71. The rates of wages in 1869 were as follows: Eastern States, $32 08; Middle States, $29 15; Western States, $27 91; Southern States, $16 81; California, $46 58.

The Swedish Government is going to establish a Medical College at Gothenburg, where ladies of the age of seventeen and upwards may go through a complete course, lasting three years, and including clinical and anatomical lectures. The diplomas obtainable in consequence will give them the right to establish themselves as physicians in any part of the kingdom.

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European sisters. The dresses of these foreigners are usually made up of trimmings. The eye is bewildered and lost in the multiplicity of flounces, fringes, laces, ribbons and all those things which, in moderation, ought to be dear to every woman's heart.

Work will be resumed this week in all the Navy Yards where it was suspended a few weeks ago, the President having signed the bill making the needed appropriations for the pay of the workmen whose services were reluctantly dispensed with on account of the expenditure of the money that had been set apart for their wages.

It is asserted that the Wilmington, Delaware, ship builders have actually taken a contract out of the hands of the Clyde builders, by a lower bid, and they can at all times find customers who really want vessels, although we shall not undertake to say that they can safely free traders, who get up bogus offers for vessels, and send them to these builders to make out a newspaper case.

Another design for bridging the channel between the English and French coasts has been laid before the French Academy of Sciences. There is to be a large bed of concrete, a series of piers supporting arches, and a tubular iron bridge. At mid-channel there is to be an artificial island, all of concrete.

The Martinsville (Ohio) *Gazette* says: "We published an item last spring, stating that a child of Uriah Holler, of Baker township, while playing at baptism with another child, was accidentally drowned. The step-mother of the child died on Sunday morning, and made a confession a day or two previous to her death, stating that she was the guilty party—that she had an aversion to the child and took its life.

Prou-Prou, the title of a French play, is destined to become an American word. It is already on the lips of society; and soon the populace will have it. In France, *prou-prou* signifies the rustle of a silk dress. In slang, it signifies a light-hearted, thoughtless, merry girl, who walks over pitfalls with a smile on her face, and goes to death with a laugh on her lips. It will become all the fashion, therefore, for that frightfully common and largely increasing class of fashionable girls who marry for mere contemplation, becoming wives in name, while remaining mistresses in reality and in spirit, and who kick over the marriage traces without a qualm of conscience! *Prou-Prou*, in short, will signify here among us fashionable lasciviousness, disguising it as "a hypocritical murderer." The Duchess is granddaughter of the celebrated Richard Brinsley Sheridan, and consequently sister of Mrs. Norton.

The Iron Works at Harlem, New York, have suspended payment. Unfinished contracts to the amount of $65,000 have been placed in the hands of the sheriff. Heretofore the company employed 270 men, most of whom will be retained for the work of completing the contracts. The liabilities of the company are stated at $200,000, but it is believed that the assets, if sufficient time is allowed for their conversion, will more than cover the amount. The concern was, during the war, one of the largest in the country, employing at one time as many as 1,500 men. The property is owned by Homer Ramsdell, one of the Directors of the Erie Railroad Company, from whom it was leased by the company referred to.

The New York plasterers, who have been on a strike against returning to the old ten hour system, have agreed at a mass meeting to give up the eight-hour plan, and work for any rate of wages which may be offered, in any number of hours named by the employers.

A large meeting has been held in New York, in the Ninth ward, to express the feelings of the citizens of New York at the manner in which crime is increasing, and to devise some means whereby it may be checked and abated. A committee of ten was, after an exciting debate, appointed to wait upon the District Attorney and request him to spare no time in bringing about the punishment of murderers now under confinement in the City Prison.

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STATE NEWS.

The effort to form a new county out of part of Lycoming, with Scranton as the county seat, is meeting with much favor.

The *Public Record* is to be the name of Wm. M. Swaine's new paper, to be issued in Philadelphia. He will take the New York *Sun* as his model.

At a meeting in Hollidaysburg last Saturday evening, $10,000 was subscribed towards building a railroad from that town to Martinsburg and beyond.

Walter R. Johns is about to start a new Democratic newspaper at Oil City. Mr. Johns was formerly proprietor of a newspaper at that place.

To fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Horace Binney, Jr., Hon. Morton McMichael has been elected President of the Philadelphia Union League.

At the Philadelphia mint the workmen are very busy. The new five cent pieces for 1870 will be ready for issue in a few days. The stricken currency of ten, fifteen and fifty-cent pieces made three months ago has not yet been issued, owing to the act of Congress having been passed to that effect.

Clearfield county produces sand from which a superior quality of glass can be manufactured.

Joseph B. Gr